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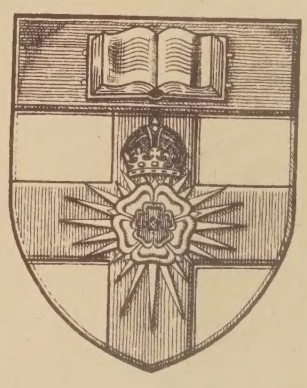

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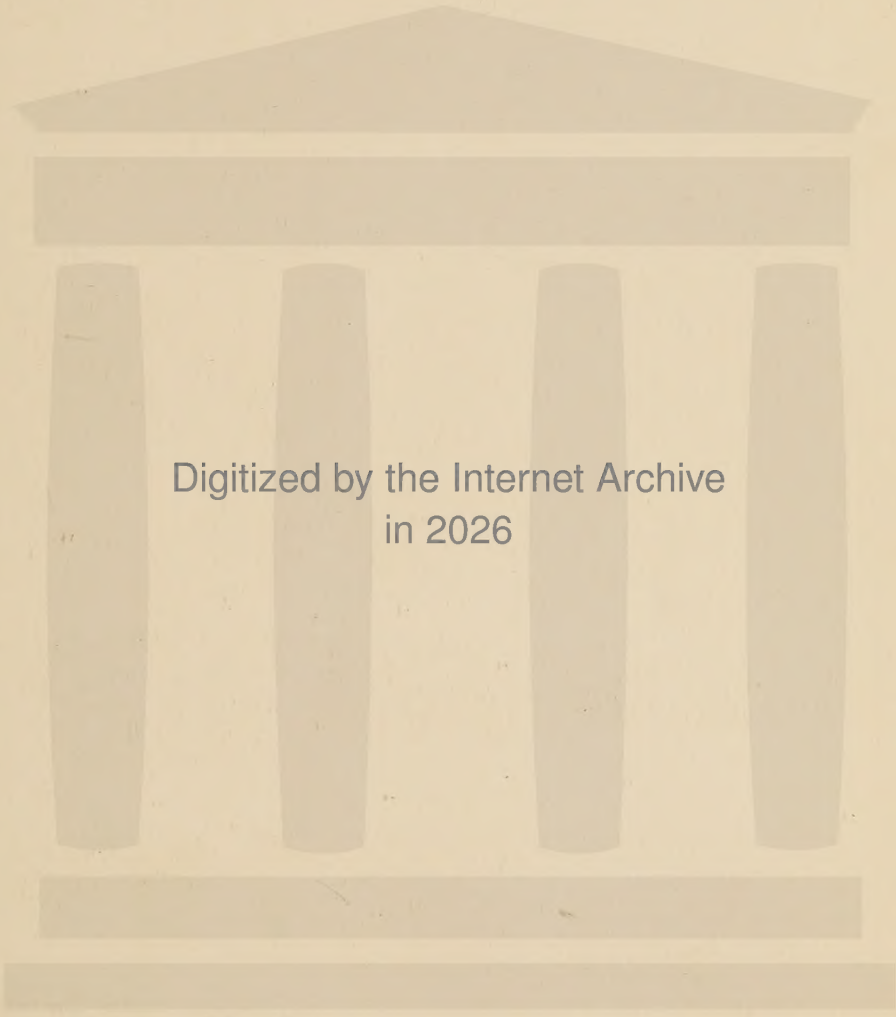
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Complete

REPORTS

FROM

COMMITTEES:

THIRTY-TWO VOLUMES.

—(18.)—

DOCKYARD APPOINTMENTS.

Session

4 *November* 1852——20 *August* 1853.

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THIRTY-TWO VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

EIGHTEENTH VOLUME.

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REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

DOCKYARD APPOINTMENTS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
23 *May* 1853.

Martis, 19° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Circumstances under which a "Circular sent to the Superintendent of Her Majesty's Dockyards, dated September 26th, 1849," was Cancelled on the 19th day of April 1852, without any Order or Minute of the Board; also, to inquire into the Circumstances under which a Letter addressed by Sir Baldwin Walker to Mr. Stafford, as Secretary to the Admiralty, in which Letter Sir Baldwin Walker tendered his Resignation, as Surveyor of the Navy, was withheld from the Board: also, into the Circumstances connected with the Appointment of Mr. James Wells, as Master Smith, in the Dockyard at Portsmouth, the subsequent Cancelling thereof, and the Appointment of Mr. George Cotsell in his stead: and generally into the exercise of the Influence and Patronage of the Admiralty in the Dockyards and Government Departments connected with the several Parliamentary Boroughs.

Veneris, 22° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

Committee nominated of,—

Sir Benjamin Hall.
Lord Seymour.
Lord Hotham.
Sir Henry Ferguson Davie.
Mr. Beckett.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Lunæ, 23° *die Maii*, 1853.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Circumstances under which a Circular sent to the Superintendents of Her Majesty's Dockyards, dated September 26th, 1849, was Cancelled on the 19th of April 1852, without any Order or Minute of the Board: also, to inquire into the Circumstances under which a Letter addressed by Sir Baldwin Walker to Mr. Stafford, as Secretary to the Admiralty, in which Letter Sir Baldwin Walker tendered his Resignation, as Surveyor of the Navy, was withheld from the Board: also, into the Circumstances connected with the Appointment of Mr. James Wells as Master Smith in the Dockyard at Portsmouth, the subsequent Cancelling thereof, and the Appointment of Mr. George Cotsell in his stead; and generally into the exercise of the Influence and Patronage of the Admiralty in the Dockyards and Government Departments connected with the several Parliamentary Boroughs, and to whom the Return respecting the Case of Lieutenant Engledue, R.N. (presented 11th April), was referred; and who were empowered to send for Persons, Papers, and Records, and to report their Observations, together with the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, to The House;—— HAVE considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:

FOUR distinct questions appear to be contained in the terms of the above reference, and Your Committee will accordingly proceed to offer separately their observations upon each.

FIRST.—The Circumstances under which a Circular sent to the Superintendents of Her Majesty's Dockyards, dated 26th September 1849, was cancelled on the 19th April 1852, without any Order or Minute of the Board of Admiralty.

In order to render intelligible their remarks upon these circulars, Your Committee must revert to the proceedings of the Admiralty at an earlier period.

On the 27th February 1847, while the late Lord Auckland was First Lord, an Admiralty order was issued in the form of a circular, addressed to the Admirals and Captains superintending Her Majesty's dockyards. In this document, which will be found at length in the Appendix, the Lords of the Admiralty state their determination to introduce and maintain a system of promotion, under which every man, who shall have once entered the service of the dockyards, may learn to look to his own exertions as the only means of future advancement. With the view of giving effect to this determination, the circular contains a scheme, according to which, whenever a vacancy offering an opportunity for promotion shall occur, the principal officers of the dockyard are directed to select three names of the persons who, after examination, shall appear best qualified to fill the vacancy, and they are required to submit these names, with a full report of the respective merits of the candidates, to the superintendent of the dockyard. The duty is then imposed on the superintendent of investigating closely these returns, and of satisfying himself as to their perfect impartiality; after which, he is authorized to reduce the number of candidates to two, by striking out the name of that candidate whom he considers least qualified. The report of the superintendent, containing his opinion of the merits of the candidates, with the original documents annexed, is then to be forwarded to the Admiralty, and the Lords of the Admiralty announce their intention to be

guided by these reports in the selection of one from the two names submitted to fill the vacancy.

In laying down this scheme of promotion, the Lords of the Admiralty reserve to themselves the right of making any further inquiries which they may see fit; but they state that they will in all cases seek the advice and concurrence of the superintendent before their choice is finally notified. They call upon the superintendents and the principal officers of the dockyard to assist them in working out this plan honestly. They further assert, that by the surrender of their own patronage, they have given proof of their sincerity, and have removed everything which can warrant a suspicion that preferment will be the result, not of services, but of political favouritism. They conclude by observing, that the good or bad working of every system must depend, in a great measure, upon those who are entrusted with its administration, and they can only express their determination to mark with their severest displeasure every attempt to thwart their intentions, and to reward those who shall cheerfully second them by every proof of their favour and approbation.

It is important to notice in reference to the above Circular of February 1847, that the patronage therein relinquished is solely the patronage of promotions, and that the Board of Admiralty did not surrender their right of making the first appointments, that is, of naming persons to be entered in the dockyards.

In the year 1849, Sir Francis Baring, being then First Lord of the Admiralty, introduced an additional precaution for the exclusion of political influence
1919. from the administration of the dockyards, by writing himself to the superintendents
2361. and principal officers whom he had appointed, asking them, as officers and gentle-
4746. men, to give him an assurance that they would not interfere in the politics of the place.

Thus it appears that the superintendents of the dockyards, and the officers appointed since that period, who reported on the qualifications of candidates for promotion, were bound by feelings of personal honour, as well as by obligations of public duty, to abstain studiously from any conduct which might cast a suspicion over the perfect impartiality of their recommendations. The superintendents of dockyards are invariably men of rank in the naval service, and in regard to them the condition imposed by Sir F. Baring is the strongest tie that can be used to bind honourable men. It has, moreover, a double effect, inasmuch as the First Lord who imposes such an engagement, is thereby himself bound to support the superintendent in strictly maintaining its observance. Your Committee, however, doubt the expediency of imposing this condition on storekeepers and subordinate officers in a dockyard. They have, indeed, only examined one storekeeper from a victualling yard, but it is manifest that he was not qualified to appreciate an honourable engagement, and that in his case such a condition was futile and ineffective.

Your Committee have been informed, that during the early part of the year 1849, as well as in some years previous, a practice had prevailed of transmitting
4734. to the Surveyor of the Navy the reports and recommendations received from the
3489. superintendents of the dockyards, in order that the Surveyor might add his remarks upon the promotions submitted, and his advice upon the filling up of vacancies in
4849. the several yards.

In the summer of 1849, the Surveyor, Sir Baldwin Walker, mentioned to the
4735. Board, that some report had not been transmitted to him, and that, in consequence of this oversight, certain vacancies had been filled which he could have supplied more economically by transfers from another yard. Sir B. Walker then suggested that, in conformity with a more ancient practice, the reports from the superintendents should be sent direct to the Surveyor, and should then be forwarded by him to the Secretary of the Admiralty. This suggestion was discussed at the Board, who assented to it, but no minute was made at the time; and shortly afterwards
4735. Sir B. Walker again mentioned the matter to Sir Francis Baring, who told him the Board were perfectly agreed, and that if he would write a letter to Mr. Parker, the Secretary, the minute should go on. The letter was written, and submitted by Mr. Parker to Sir F. Baring, who marked upon it his initials, with "approved." On this authority the circular of September 1849 was issued. The minute, therefore, was
1232. not a Board minute; Sir F Baring states "it was a minute made by the First Lord; not, however, without the knowledge and concurrence of the Board."

The

The late Board of Admiralty entered upon their duties on the 2d or 3d March 1852. The Duke of Northumberland states, that as soon as he had accepted office, he gave up to Mr. Stafford, the Secretary of the Admiralty, all the civil patronage, excepting the master shipwrights, and one class of messengers, which he reserved for deserving sailors and marines. Mr. Stafford states, that upon his acceptance of office, the first thing which was forced upon him by all his political friends was the amount of his patronage, and the first thing he had to inquire at the Admiralty was the limit of that patronage. He further informed Your Committee, that as soon as he entered upon his official duties, he received repeated communications that the promotions and appointments in the dockyards took a direction invariably hostile to the Government with which he was connected. 3096. 1134. 1169.

On the 31st March, or thereabouts, Sir B. Walker states, that Mr. Grant, a clerk of the Admiralty, and private secretary to Mr. Stafford, came to his office at Somerset House, with a request that he, the Surveyor of the Navy, would not submit the names of persons to be promoted into the vacancies for foremen and inspector of shipwrights in Devonport Dockyard, as Mr. Stafford's political friends were dissatisfied; he wished to promote some of their party. Sir B. Walker replied, that he had been upwards of four years in the department; that he had not allowed political motives to influence his submissions to the Board, and that he was not going to commence jobbing for him, or anybody else. He requested, therefore, that such a proposition should never again be made to him. 3. 4425. 1140.

Mr. Walter Eden, a clerk in the Surveyor's Department, says, that he entered the room during this interview, and heard the reply made by Sir B. Walker. 261.

Mr. Stafford denies that he sent Mr. Grant to the Surveyor on such an errand. 1135. 1141.

Mr. Grant states, that the object of his visit to Sir B. Walker was, as far as he can recollect, to ascertain whether certain vacancies existed in the dockyards, the Secretary of the Admiralty having received applications for certain vacancies which were stated to exist, but the reports of which vacancies had not reached him. His own impression is, that he stated to Sir B. Walker that some inconvenience was felt in consequence of the reports of the vacancies not coming direct to the Secretary, but coming in the first instance through the Surveyor; to which Sir B. Walker replied, that he trusted the system then in force was not about to be altered, as he thought it worked very well, and he hoped no system of jobbing was about to be recurred to. 1613.

According to Mr. Grant's evidence, therefore, the first intimation in regard to cancelling the circular of September 1849 was made by himself, a clerk in the Admiralty, to the Surveyor of the Navy. Mr. Grant adds, that he made these inquiries from his own wish to ascertain the facts, and not by direction of Mr. Stafford. 1621.

On the 2d April 1852, Mr. Stafford wrote a private letter to Sir B. Walker, wherein he adverts to the great dissatisfaction felt by his political friends as to the present arrangement of appointments and promotions in the dockyards; in regard to which, he says, "there is a general impression that all those things are dispensed among political opponents, insomuch that there seems no alternative but to resume the system which existed previous to September 1849." 1135. 1200.

Mr. Stafford stated it as his belief, that before writing the above letter to Sir B. Walker, he had consulted the First Lord, or at least he had, in his various conversations with the Duke of Northumberland, mentioned how much he was pressed, and referred to cancelling the circular as one mode of meeting the difficulty. 1223. 1225.

His Grace says, that Mr. Stafford had at various times conversations with him in regard to cancelling the circular of September 1849, but that the letter of the 2d of April was written without his knowledge. 3100.

Sir B. Walker, in his reply to Mr. Stafford's private letter, points out distinctly that the system of promotions is regulated by the circular of 1847, which renders political preferences impossible if the superintendents of the dockyards perform their duty; and in regard to the circular of 1849, he adds, "It is for the Lords of the Admiralty to decide whether they will rescind that order, and deprive the Surveyor of the control which is so highly necessary," &c. 1135.

3. On the 5th of April, Sir B. Walker had an interview with Mr. Stafford at the
1135. Admiralty, on which occasion the subject was warmly discussed. There is a
3894. material difference in their recollection of this conversation. Sir B. Walker asserts
129. that Mr. Stafford said, "There is no use blinking the question; I am so pressed by
130. Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that I cannot help myself."

1137. Mr. Stafford states, that it is difficult to pledge himself, either affirmatively or negatively, to the precise accuracy of any particular words, but that he can say there was no pressure put upon him either by Lord Derby or by the Chancellor of the Exchequer; and what he believes he stated was, "The pressure upon me from members of my own party was very severe indeed, and that the Government of Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not, any more than any other Government, permit all the patronage to be in the hands of their political opponents."

3896. Sir B. Walker asserts that the expressions, as cited by himself, were used a second time by Mr. Stafford, in the presence of Admiral Hyde Parker; and that, upon his reading this portion of his evidence to Admiral H. Parker while Admiral Berkeley was present, Admiral Parker admitted having heard the expression as
4493. cited by Sir B. Walker. Admiral Berkeley confirmed this fact before Your Committee.

A rumour of this evidence having reached Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, they
4802. attended a meeting of Your Committee, and denied having either pressed Mr.
4070. Stafford, or used language which could afford any ground for such a statement.

There is a material difference between the assertions of Sir B. Walker on the one hand, and of Mr. Stafford on the other, in reference to the precise words spoken at this interview, but as regards one material point, it is agreed on both sides that the names of the two most influential members of the Government were
1135. introduced in an argument, wherein the Secretary of the Admiralty endeavoured to constrain the Surveyor of the Navy to consent to an alteration of the system under which promotions were regulated.

On the 5th April, the day when this interview occurred, a promotion was autho-
1943. rised by the Admiralty, which gave rise to serious remonstrances, and brought again to Mr. Stafford's notice the danger of any hasty exercise of patronage among men in the dockyards. Captain Richards, the Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard, stated, that on the 1st March 1852, in his monthly report to the Admiralty, he
1944. informed the Board that there was a vacancy for a leading man in the metal
92. mills, and that, as the inferior leading men were not competent for such a position, he recommended an entry of a man from private trade. This suggestion was not approved, and on the 5th April 1852 a letter was sent from the Admiralty appointing Joseph Ridgway, a second-class man in the metal mills, to this vacancy.

Upon receiving this appointment, which Captain Richards says seemed to him a
1950. violation of the orders of 1847, he thought it best to write a private letter to Mr. Stafford.

Accordingly, on the 8th April, he related fully, by letter, the circumstances of Ridgway's case. He informed Mr. Stafford that Ridgway had in a former year
1936. attempted to obtain this promotion from Sir Francis Baring by political influence, through some friends at Portsmouth; and he sent some extracts of the letters, showing that Ridgway had been then reprimanded for transgressing the orders of 1847, and warned that a repetition of his conduct would be followed by dismissal. Captain Richards further represented in explicit but respectful language the ill effects which such a promotion must have in the dockyards, and he added, that he brought all these facts to Mr. Stafford's notice before putting in force the order for Ridgway's promotion.

1992. On the 9th April, Captain Richards also wrote to Sir B. Walker on the subject,
1124. expressing his fears that the system of promotion established in 1847 was about to be entirely set aside.

1951. On the 11th April, Mr. Stafford replied to Captain Richards that the appointment of Ridgway must go forward.

1367. Your Committee inquired by whom Ridgway had been recommended, and were informed that Sir F. Smith, then a candidate for the Borough of Chatham, represented

sented to Mr. Stafford, or to Mr. Grant, his private secretary, that Ridgway was kept out of his just promotion on account of his political opinions, and that for this reason Captain Richards proposed to select a man from the private trade. 1369.

On the 11th April, when Mr. Stafford persisted in making this appointment, he knew the facts of this case; he was aware that Sir F. Smith had applied to him for Ridgway, and that, according to the circular of 1847, any attempt to obtain promotion through political influence had been strictly forbidden; he had been told that after the report of the superintendent, the promotion of Ridgway would be viewed in the yard as a subversion of the system of 1847, and that such a step must produce an influence on all the men, as well as diminish the authority of the superintendent. He acted therefore in opposition to the advice of Captain Richards, and he did not ask for the opinion of the Surveyor. 1950.

As a justification of this proceeding, Mr. Stafford states that he was at this time prepossessed with a notion that Captain Richards was a decided political partisan. This notion, however, rested on some rumour which Mr. Stafford had accepted without inquiry; and he states he did not then know the engagement into which Captain Richards had entered upon his appointment to this office. Your Committee have not received one word of evidence in support of this rumour; but, on the contrary, decisive evidence that it was unfounded. 3997. 1378. 3971. 4787. 4798.

On the 19th April 1852 the circular was issued cancelling the previous circular of September 1849.

Your Committee have endeavoured to ascertain the authority under which the circular of 19th April was issued, and the occurrences which led to its issue.

Mr. Stafford states, that he had not then seen the original minute sanctioning the circular of September 1849; that he had found a transcript of it in the general minute book, but could trace no notice of it in the Board minute book. This seemed to prove that it had not been issued by the Board. Again, in the general minute book no mark showed that it had received the sanction of the First Lord; Mr. Stafford, therefore, without inquiring for the original document, concluded that the minute of September 1849 had been issued upon the sole authority of the previous Secretary of the Admiralty. He made this erroneous statement to the Duke of Northumberland, and contended that he, as Secretary of the Admiralty, was fully justified in revoking an order which a former Secretary had of his own authority issued. 1231. 1234. 3112.

The Duke of Northumberland admitted that he had on several occasions refused to interfere in cancelling the circular of September 1849; and it was only when he thought the power belonged to the Secretary that he acquiesced in it. Under this erroneous impression, the First Lord permitted the circular of 19th April to be issued, and was cognizant of its purport before its issue. Two Lords of the Admiralty had been themselves superintendents of dockyards, but neither these Lords nor any other members of the Board of Admiralty were consulted in regard to this circular, or even informed of it until after it had been issued. 3102. 3249. 3151. 3139. 3111. 346. 537. 3696.

From the evidence of the Earl of Derby, it appears that the Duke of Northumberland had himself selected the distinguished naval officers who were his colleagues at the Board. It may be presumed, therefore, that His Grace had full confidence in their judgment and experience; yet on this occasion he did not consult them, but relied on the assertions of the Secretary of the Admiralty, who had neither official experience, nor any knowledge of the details of the several departments under the Admiralty. 4799.

The Duke of Northumberland remembered, as he said, the undeviating traditions of former times respecting jobbing in the dockyards, and it seems that His Grace studiously avoided all cognizance of such proceedings; "he never knew, from the day he entered the office until he left the office, whether the patronage was in the hands of the Surveyor, or whether it was in the hands of the Secretary: he never knew anything about it." 3105. 3103.

The evidence shows, however, that the Duke's mind had been imbued with a notion that the circular of 1849 had transferred patronage from the Secretary to the Surveyor of the Navy, for His Grace said, "Under the circular of 1847, the superintendent sent up two names to the Secretary of the Admiralty, who selected one of those names, and that selection was the only patronage which the Secretary had in the promotions." Under the circular of 1849, he believed that the Surveyor 3140.

3144. erased one of the two names, transmitting the other to be registered at the Admiralty.

The Duke admitted that he spoke only from hearsay; and Your Committee,
3487. relying upon evidence, must pronounce His Grace to have been misinformed in regard to this point. Under the circular of 1849, the Surveyor, having received two names from the superintendent, did not erase either; he merely made a
4739. submission, giving his opinion as to which was the more deserving person. Patronage, in regard to promotions, could not honestly be exercised either by the Surveyor or by the Secretary. The circular of 1847 had announced that promotions should be governed by the merits of the candidates, and that no preference or favour should influence the decision. For the justice of the decision, the Board of Admiralty remained equally responsible under the circular of 1849 as under the circular of 1847.

3139. The authority, therefore, under which the circular of 1849 was cancelled on the
3225. 19th April 1852 was undoubtedly the consent of the First Lord; a consent given under the assurance conveyed to him that the power of cancelling that document belonged properly to the Secretary. The sanction, therefore, of the First Lord was given in ignorance of all the facts which were essential to be known, before a correct opinion could be formed upon the propriety of maintaining or rescinding the order issued by Sir Francis Baring.

1146. Your Committee repeatedly asked Mr. Stafford to state any facts which had made him desirous of cancelling the circular of September 1849. Mr. Stafford did not state to Your Committee the source from which he derived his impressions, nor did he furnish any facts enabling Your Committee to institute a more searching inquiry. Under the authority of that order, the Surveyor of the Navy had acted for two years and a half; and if during that period it had been shown
1209. that any promotions had been unfairly submitted, or any names unjustly withheld by the Surveyor, or by the Surveyor's department, Your Committee would have deemed it their duty to report facts so injurious to the interests of the public service.

In regard to promotions unjustly withheld, Your Committee were surprised
1150. to find that Mr. Stafford, when he gave his evidence, still considered the case of Ridgway a very strong case in justification of altering the system under which recommendations were submitted. It is unnecessary to speak further of this case, except to say, that a timely warning had been kindly, but fruit-
1950. lessly sent to Mr. Stafford, which does honour to the gallant officer from whom it emanated.

1172. 1181. 4158. 1212. 4533. 4517. Mr. Stafford said that he had some distrust or misgiving as to the Surveyor's department; it was represented that there was nepotism and jealousies at work between that department and the dockyards. Representations were made to him that there was a concert between the Surveyor's department and Chatham, or in other words, that some hint was given from the Surveyor's department to persons in the dockyard at Chatham, as to whom they should recommend. In regard to the Surveyor himself, Mr. Stafford says, that he entertained no suspicion, but he so far gave credit to the numerous private hints, and anonymous reports which reached him in reference to that department, that he thought it desirable to bring the correspondence from the dockyards directly under his own inspection, without allowing it first to pass through the Surveyor's office.

Since, however, it appears that in two cases at least, the promotions were specially recommended by Sir F. Smith, the evidence given by this gentleman before the Chatham Committee will perhaps throw some light on this subject. Sir F. Smith there states, in reference to Mr. Cotsell, that "he understood Cotsell was about to be jockeyed by some contrivance in the Surveyor's office." Again, it will be remembered that Mr. Grant states, Sir F. Smith, his friend, had represented the injustice done to Ridgway, at Chatham.

Question 6130 of Chatham Election Evidence.

1368.

Your Committee earnestly endeavoured to obtain something more definite than these rumours, because they deemed it important to ascertain whether the promises held out by the circulars of 1847 and 1849 had been honestly fulfilled.

4151. For this purpose, the first question to be asked was: whether the Surveyor's department had duly submitted the recommendations as received from the dockyards? The superintendents of the dockyards were unanimous in testifying to the

the fairness with which their recommendations had been treated while the circular of 1849 had been in force. They had perfect confidence in the impartiality of the Surveyor's department, and considered the system introduced by the circular of 1849 an improvement on the previous practice. 2152. 3624. 3418. 3421.

Your Committee next inquired whether the superintendents had made recommendations whereby they appeared to have been actuated by any preference in forwarding or in withholding the names of candidates? Mr. Stafford read to Your Committee a statement which he had made in the House, acquitting the superintendents of any such motives, and testifying his belief in the good faith with which they discharged their duty. He discarded any impressions to the contrary which on his first entrance into office he had entertained. 4780.

Another important question remains, namely, did the principal officers and their assistants in the dockyards who conducted the examinations, and recommended three names to the superintendent, invariably perform this duty with care and impartiality?

It is manifest that the good intentions of the Board of Admiralty, the fairness of the Surveyor, and the justice of the superintendents, are all liable to be defeated, unless the principal officers of the dockyard execute their portion of the task with honesty and diligence.

On this point Your Committee have received conflicting evidence: the superintendents testify their belief in the honesty and good faith of their principal officers, whilst the contrary is positively asserted by one witness, a political agent in a dockyard borough. Mr. Stafford also says that he was influenced by the prevalence of such reports. When further pressed by Your Committee to furnish names and to instance some cases, he replied that this would be injurious to the persons who had given him the information, that he had himself tried to remedy the injustice, and then destroyed the letters. 1164. 4450.

Your Committee consider that if the Secretary of the Admiralty entertained such suspicions, and was from this motive induced to cancel the circular of 1849, he would have done no more than his public duty in endeavouring, by every means in his power, to expose such dishonesty and fraud. Mr. Stafford, however, thought it useless to inquire further, and probably in his case he judged wisely, for when the Secretary of the Admiralty accompanies political candidates through the dockyards and invites the officers of the department to meet electioneering agents on the eve of an election, it becomes obvious that he cannot consistently take any steps for the purpose of repressing favouritism and party preferences. Before any useful inquiry into such rumours can be instituted, it is essential that all the men in the dockyards should be convinced that the authorities at headquarters are sincere in their intentions. 4118. 4758

Your Committee have been unable to discover any facts which justify the issue of the circular of 19th April 1852, cancelling the order of September 1849, and the evidence proves that this proceeding was adopted by Mr. Stafford to satisfy his political friends. The circular of September 1849 has since been restored, and its provisions rendered more secure by being embodied in an Order in Council. 4854.

In concluding their observations on this head of their inquiry, Your Committee feel it due to the Surveyor of the Navy, to declare their opinion, that they have heard nothing which casts the least shadow of suspicion upon the integrity of his conduct in the performance of his official duties. Sir B. Walker asserts that he never allowed any one in his department to interfere with these duties, and that the responsibility of the submissions rests solely on himself.

> Second.—Also to inquire into the Circumstances under which a Letter addressed by Sir B. Walker to Mr. Stafford, as Secretary to the Admiralty, in which Letter Sir B. Walker tendered his Resignation as Surveyor of the Navy, was withheld from the Board.

On the 21st April 1852, Sir B. Walker states that he was first informed of the issue of the circular of the 19th by the dockyard returns acknowledging its receipt. On the same day he wrote a letter tendering his resignation, and addressed it to the Secretary of the Admiralty. 3 19

Sir B. Walker says, that he took this letter to the Admiralty, and read it to
278. Admiral Hyde Parker, who was the immediate head of the Surveyor's department. Admiral Parker took the letter, and said he should give it to the First Lord. Admiral H. Parker is not certain as to the date, but is certain that he took the letter, on the same day on which he received it, to the Duke of Northumberland;
284. that he gave the letter to the Duke, having first taken it out of its cover. He did not read it to His Grace, but told him the purport of the letter.

3214. The Duke of Northumberland has no recollection of this letter, and he thinks
3135. there is some confusion as to the date of this interview. He believes that Admiral H. Parker came to him on Monday the 26th April, and represented the annoyance which the Surveyor felt on account of a slur which seemed to be cast on his character by the issue of the circular of 19th. Admiral Parker spoke very warmly and justly upon the subject, and the Duke told him he felt confident that Mr. Stafford meant no disrespect to the Surveyor. After this interview, His
3136. Grace sent for Mr. Stafford, and told him that the Surveyor considered the circular cancelling the order of 1849 had cast a stigma on the Surveyor, and the Duke was much afraid he would resign; and he added to Mr. Stafford, who treated it rather lightly, "It is much more serious than you seem to think; for if he resigns his office, I may not find a successor." Upon that, Mr. Stafford went into Admiral Parker's room, and at the end of about half an hour they came into the Duke's room, Sir B. Walker and Admiral H. Parker together. The circular of the 26th April was then read in the Duke's room, upon which Sir B. Walker said, "I am perfectly satisfied."

4398. Sir B. Walker asserts confidently that the Duke is in error as to this interview;
4399. but he states that he did see the Duke between the day of the delivery of his letter and of the circular being issued, and that the Duke said to him, "I know all
4405. about your letter; Admiral Parker has told me all about it; remain perfectly quiet, and every thing shall be set right."

3. In the midst of these contradictions, there is one point on which all the wit
362. nesses agree, namely, that the purport or draft of the circular of the 26th April
1239. was read in the presence of Admiral Parker and of Sir B. Walker before its issue.

496. The circular of 26th April was afterwards read at the Board. This circular informs the superintendents that the circular of the 19th was not intended as an imputation on the Surveyor of the Navy; and it proceeds in these words: "The arrangements with regard to the dockyard promotions, as laid down by their Lordships' circular of the 27th February 1847, will be strictly adhered to; and they deem it desirable to revert to the system then in force of having all communications on the subject addressed to this office in the first instance."

292. Admiral Parker states, that a day or two after the above interview, he destroyed
298. Sir B. Walker's letter of resignation, considering the matter to be settled. As regards the letter of resignation, therefore, it appears that although it was addressed to the late Secretary of the Admiralty, it was never delivered to him, and, consequently, he is in no way responsible for the act of withholding that letter from the Board.

Your Committee were informed by Sir B. Walker that he did not until November know that his letter of resignation had been destroyed; he had found in the circular
22. of 26th April a reference, as he thought, to the words he had used in his letter, and he concluded that his letter had been submitted to the Board. Sir B. Walker acknowledged that the circular of the 26th cleared his character; and so far, and
184. so far only, was he satisfied; he did not think the course taken by the Board
4415. satisfactory, inasmuch as they confirmed the act previously done by the Secretary without their knowledge.

The Duke of Northumberland and the other Lords, in sanctioning the circular of 26th April, repeated and confirmed the order of the 19th. They had now removed all imputation upon the Surveyor's honour; but they had not provided for the efficient working of the system, which they stated would be strictly adhered to.

3736. The First Lord and several of his colleagues seem to have considered, that in regard to promotions the Surveyor would be consulted as before, the only change being, that the recommendations would be sent, in the first instance, to the Secre-
3144. tary. The Duke did not, however, give any directions on this subject; he expected

that

that the Secretary and the Surveyor would work together, as this was essential for the efficiency of the service. The First Lord supposed that the Secretary would communicate upon all matters with the Surveyor, and His Grace said that it was impossible for him to contemplate any abuses. This expectation was not realised. Sir B. Walker denies that he was afterwards consulted by the Secretary upon vacancies or promotions, and Mr. Stafford cannot remember that he ever did consult the Surveyor upon such business after April 1852. 3161. 4347. 4365.

The Duke received, however, other intimations that the appointments in the dockyards were not satisfactory to officers in his department, and that abuses were not altogether impossible. He had granted an interview to Captain Richards, who had brought to his notice the circumstances of Ridgway's promotion, and the correspondence with regard to that case. The Surveyor of the Navy had also seen His Grace upon that subject. His Grace's conversation induced Captain Richards to think that the Duke quite concurred with him in his view of dockyard promotions. Admiral H. Parker remonstrated frequently upon the rescinding the circular of September 1849, and said he should bring the matter before the Board. In reply to Admiral H. Parker, the Duke spoke very confidentially, and encouraged him to bring the subject before the Board. This, however, was never done. 2015. 2028. 3172 2019 3193. 3193.

On the 10th May, Sir B. Walker, having received many communications from different dockyards in regard to the unjust filling up of vacancies, and being now relieved from personal feeling in regard to any imputation on his character, which had been at first involved in this question, wrote a letter to the Duke, calling his attention again to the subject, and expressing an earnest wish that His Grace's administration might not be tarnished. 3169. 4.

The Duke states, that he considered this letter well, and thought he saw in it a desire to revive personal disputes; he, however, showed the letter in confidence to Mr. Stafford, saying that he should not make it public. 3171.

Sir B. Walker received no reply to this letter. 3.

Your Committee examined Sir B. Walker upon the details of the cases which he adduced in justification of his letter to the Duke of Northumberland, and they obtained evidence in corroboration of his statements from the superintendents of Woolwich, of Devonport, and of Chatham. These officers concurred in stating that the appointments made by Mr. Stafford were, in many instances, unjust to the men in the yards, contrary to the circular of 1847, and detrimental to the efficiency of the service. In explanation of these various cases, Mr. Stafford said that he had regarded many of these appointments as first entries, the nomination to which had been invariably vested in the Board of Admiralty. Under this impression he had not followed the recommendations of the superintendents, but had, without reference to their advice, named the persons suggested to him by his political friends. The evidence of Commodores Seymour and Eden, of Captain Richards and of Sir B. Walker, will show the view which these officers took of these appointments, and the meaning which they attached to the circular of 1847. In regard to several of the appointments inquired into by your Committee, the original documents could not be produced, having either been lost or abstracted. The original minute of the 19th April 1852 was also not forthcoming. Some evidence respecting it will be found in the Appendix. 29. 2468. 3309. 2052. 4214.

Your Committee desire distinctly to state, that in the majority of cases, after cancelling the circular of 1849, Mr. Stafford appears to have followed the recommendations of the superintendents; but it is obvious, as regards the efficiency of these establishments, that even a few promotions obtained through political influence would defeat the authorities of the dockyard, subvert the confidence of the men, and render nugatory all the solemn assurances of circulars issued by the Admiralty, to the effect that men should rise by merit, and not by political influence.

There can be little doubt but that these results have attended the appointments adverted to by witnesses well qualified to give an impartial opinion on this subject. Officers of high character in the navy, distinguished alike for professional abilities and unblemished honour, observed the course of promotion in the dockyards during the last summer with apprehension, with feelings of humiliation, with dismay, and even with disgust. 2380. 1129. 124.

One officer, of high standing in the navy, and supreme at the Admiralty, had power to check these proceedings: an appeal was more than once made to him; he intimated his disapproval, but he declined to interfere. His rank and station in the country, his position in the Government, his connexion with the gallant service of the navy, were deemed to be securities for the administration of a department confided to the Duke of Northumberland. On this responsibility the Earl of Derby stated that he placed his reliance.

His Grace had surrendered to the Secretary the civil patronage of the Admiralty; and it is due to His Grace to state that the few appointments connected with the dockyards which he himself made, were apparently selected from no
2231. other motive except the good of the service. Your Committee, however, would ill discharge their duty if they did not point out that in every branch of the Government the head of the department must be held responsible, not indeed for every individual appointment, but for the system under which the patronage is distributed; and he is specially bound to uphold subordinate officers who cannot properly perform their duty without his countenance and support.

THIRD QUESTION.—The Circumstances connected with the Appointment of Mr. James Wells as Master Smith in the Dockyard of Portsmouth, the subsequent cancelling thereof, and the Appointment of Mr. George Cotsell in his stead.

Mr. George Cotsell, the master smith at Chatham, stated to Your Committee
1432. 1448. that he had for some years been desirous of being transferred to the same situation at Portsmouth, and in the spring of 1852 he made an application to the
1426. Admiralty on this subject; he subsequently saw Mr. Stafford in the smithery at Chatham, accompanied by Sir F. Smith and other gentlemen. He then took an
1002. opportunity of reminding Mr. Stafford of his request.

737. In August 1852, Admiral H. Parker directed Sir B. Walker to select a man for the smithery at Portsmouth from the private trade.

3397. Sir B. Walker thereupon communicated with Commodore Eden, because, at
752. Woolwich a smith from private trade had been found of great service. Even-
767. tually James Wells, a smith from Liverpool, was recommended for the place;
429. and Admiral Parker signed a minute, considering himself entitled to appoint a
432. master smith, and believing that this appointment would be an advantage to the
745. service. In accordance with this minute, letters were sent from the Admiralty,
428. on the 10th of September, to the superintendent at Portsmouth, to the Surveyor,
782. and to the Accountant-general, acquainting them with the appointment of Wells. A warrant was also prepared; but this was subsequently stopped by
956. Captain Hamilton, the permanent Secretary of the Admiralty, without any com-
775. munication with Admiral Parker. Captain Hamilton said that the minute by Admiral Parker was not regular, because he had no authority to make it; the patronage being at the disposal of the Secretary.

1873. At the end of September Mr. Stafford returned, having been absent for some weeks; he wished to appoint Cotsell to the place, but Admiral Parker remon-
458. 1711. strated. On the 1st of October Cotsell was appointed, and Wells, who had entered upon the duty, was dismissed.

1899. Cotsell had a very good character as a workman, as will be seen by referring to the evidence. The chief objection to the appointment was, that he had been named through political influence, and that, as this was well known in the yards, it must operate prejudicially to the service.

460. On the 8th October Admiral H. Parker wrote to the Duke of Northumberland,
3198. complaining of this substitution as injurious to the public service, and as an affront to himself. His Grace states, that he was vexed at the manner in which Admiral H. Parker had been treated, and expressed an opinion that it was wrong. The
3200. Admiral had, however, committed an irregularity in making the appointment, and the Duke desired to allay the angry feelings which had arisen.

Mr. Stafford defends the appointment of Cotsell upon two grounds; first, that
1736. Wells had, in fact, received no warrant of appointment; next, that Cotsell had a stronger claim, because he was an excellent master smith, and, having served in the dockyards, was fairly entitled to be preferred to a stranger.

Admiral

Admiral Parker said that he made the minute rightly, as First Naval Lord, when he appointed Wells. The Duke states, on the contrary, that the conduct of Admiral Parker was irregular, for that he himself had given this appointment to Mr. Stafford. 429.

The expediency of introducing persons from private trade, and thereby stopping the usual course of promotions, must depend on the special circumstances of the case. In the circular of 1847 attention is directed to improvements in working copper and iron, and to the early introduction into the Government yards of the best modes of working adopted in private establishments. Great benefit had resulted in Woolwich from this introduction, and Admiral Parker, having been superintendent of Portsmouth dockyard, was well qualified to give an opinion on this question. 432.

Under the present Board of Admiralty, Mr. Wells has been restored to Portsmouth, and Mr. Cotsell remanded to Chatham.

FOURTH QUESTION.—To inquire generally into the Exercise of the Influence and Patronage of the Admiralty in the Dockyards and Government Departments connected with the several Parliamentary Boroughs.

An extensive field of inquiry is here submitted for investigation. All the witnesses, who have been asked the question, admit that the political party enjoying the power and patronage of office exercise an influence, more or less effective, upon the constituencies of the dockyard boroughs. 4822.

The evidence offered upon this general subject convinced Your Committee that if they examined into the political conflicts within these boroughs in former years, they would immediately be bewildered by contradictory assertions and statements as to long-past transactions, which the lapse of time renders it difficult to verify; and probably, after devoting the whole Session to such an inquiry, they would be unable to afford to The House any more useful information than can be now obtained from the Reports of different Election Committees. 4595. 4808.

Your Committee have therefore restricted their investigations to proceedings subsequent to the issue of the circular of 1847, when a new era commenced. In former years it it generally admitted that corrupt practices prevailed in the dockyards. To prevent a recurrence of such practices the circular of 1847 was avowedly issued, and the accompanying evidence tends to show that from the time of its issue until April 1852, the Board of Admiralty had honestly fulfilled their part of the engagement. Your Committee limit their Report to the subject of dockyard appointments, and to the direct exercise of influence upon men in the dockyards. They wish therefore to state, that they pronounce no opinion upon the general exercise of patronage by the Board of Admiralty. The patronage of the first entries would probably give a preponderating influence to a Government which had held office for a continuous term of years. There are, however, objections to permitting the officers of the dockyard to exercise patronage in reference to the first entries. The admission of numerous relations and persons locally connected with each other would neither tend to the good discipline of the yard, nor to impartiality in the examinations for promotion. While the power of rejection, if properly exercised by the superintendent, seems to afford some security against the introduction of unfit men into the yard.

No general election had occurred since the issue of the circular of 1847 until the summer of last year, but two elections for Greenwich had occurred in the years 1849 and 1851; Your Committee endeavoured therefore to ascertain whether the Government, in the years 1849 and 1851, had interfered with the course of promotions at Woolwich, either before or after the two elections. Commodore Eden states that his recommendations were duly confirmed, and he does not remember any case where other influence prevailed against him. 3288. 3292.

The late Secretary of the Admiralty was accompanied by the Parliamentary candidates of his own political party when he visited the dockyards at Chatham, Deptford, and Devonport, and at the two last places he stood with the candidates at the ticket office, where all the men must necessarily pass in review. During his stay at Devonport a few days previous to the election, he invited men, who were 1002. 3650.

4320. were taking an active part in the political contest, to meet several officers of the dockyard at dinner, and this dinner was charged to the Contingencies of the Admiralty.

4286. In regard to these proceedings Mr. Stafford has admitted that his conduct was
4284. wrong, and not consistent with his duty.

703. Your Committee asked Mr. H. Hay, who has been at the Admiralty during 47 years, whether he ever knew any occasion upon which a Secretary of the Admi-
3069. ralty had gone round without the Board in the way in which the late Secretary did, and Mr. Hay said, "I do not think I can instance a case."

Mr. Stafford states that he was not then aware of the stringent obligations under which the superintendents of the dockyards, as men of honour, were required to abstain from all political interference.

Thus, in ignorance of much that he should have known, seeking counsel from none, and rejecting such counsel as had been tendered, he acted in disregard of precedents, and pursued a course, which rendered the Circulars of the Admiralty, and the conditions imposed on the superintendents, equally nugatory and valueless.

Some observations will be found in the evidence upon the expediency of disfranchising the men in the dockyards; this is a question of State policy involving considerations which were not referred to Your Committee, and which it is not within their province to report upon. They have, however, not deemed it irrelevant to obtain some opinions upon the question from witnesses whose judgment and experience deserve the attention of The House.

In its bearing upon the public interest, the importance of the system under which labour in the dockyards is regulated can hardly be over-rated. The vote for wages alone in these establishments at home has this year amounted to
165. 683,600*l.*, and the present number of men is fixed at 9,653. A few years since
4764. the expense under this head was still larger; but from the evidence of Sir F. Baring it appears that by the regulations of the years 1847 and 1849 the dockyards were so much improved, that an equal amount of labour was obtained from a diminished number of workmen.

An impartial system of advancement must be productive of industry, and therefore of economy; such a system Your Committee believe may be enforced, if the Board of Admiralty honestly persevere in its maintenance, and if, having appointed fit persons as superintendents, they direct them vigilantly to watch those whose fair co-operation can alone insure justice to candidates for promotion.

For the purpose of securing a proper system of promotions in the dockyards, it may, perhaps, fairly be required that if the system under which these promotions are now again regulated should be hereafter altered or modified, the information shall be laid before Parliament as soon as an opportunity may be afforded for such communication.

Before closing this Report, Your Committee wish to direct attention to some matters of detail which appear to them susceptible of improvement. The minute books of the Admiralty do not afford all the information in regard to past transactions which is desirable for reference. The evidence here annexed shows that important documents have been either withdrawn or lost, and the loss of papers is, it is stated, not an unfrequent occurrence at the Admiralty. In order to obviate the inconvenience of such loss, an improved arrangement might, perhaps, be made, so that orders entered in the general minute book may not long remain without the cognizance of the Board, and so that in after years a reference to the general minute book may show not only the purport of the minute, but the authority for its issue.

23 *May* 1853.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Jovis, 28° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

PRESENT:

Lord Seymour.	Sir H. F. Davie.
Lord Hotham.	Mr. Beckett.
Sir B. Hall.	

Lord Seymour called to the Chair.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, Mr. *Walter Eden*, Vice-Admiral *Hyde Parker*, Admiral *Berkeley*, M. P., Mr. *Nelson Horton*, and Mr. *Charles H. Pennell*, examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Veneris, 29° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

PRESENT:

Lord Seymour, in the Chair.

Sir H. F. Davie.	Mr. Beckett.
Lord Hotham.	Sir B. Hall.

Captain *Alexander Milne*, Captain *Pelham*, Sir *B. Walker*, Mr. *John Barrow*, and Mr. *John H. Hay*, examined.

Sir *B. Walker*, further examined.

Mr. *Nelson Horton*, Mr. *Robert Bell*, Mr. *Octavius Piers*, and Mr. *Stafford*, M. P., examined.

[Adjourned till Monday, at Eleven.

Lunæ, 2° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

Lord Seymour, in the Chair.

Sir H. F. Davie.	Lord Hotham.
Sir B. Hall.	Mr. Beckett.

Mr. *George Cotsell*, Mr. *Thomas Scott*, Mr. *John Allis*, Mr. *Octavius Piers*, Sir *Baldwi Walker*, and Mr. *Stafford*, M. P., examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Martis, 3° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Mr. Beckett.	Lord Hotham.
Sir B. Hall.	Sir H. F. Davie.

Mr. *George Cotsell* and Sir *Baldwin Walker*, further examined.

Mr. *H. F. Amedroz*, Mr. *John Barrow*, Mr. *John Henry Briggs*, and Mr. *Thomas George Grant*, examined.

Mr. *Stafford*, M. P., further examined.

Captain *Richards* examined.

[Adjourned till Thursday, at Eleven o'clock.

Jovis, 5° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Mr. Beckett.	Lord Hotham.
Sir B. Hall.	Sir H. F. Davie.

Captain *George Martin* examined.

Captain *Richards* further examined.

Admiral *Fanshaw*, Serjeant *Cross*, Mr. *William Henry Ching*, Serjeant *Mortimore*, Colonel *Coryton*, and Commodore *Seymour*, examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Veneris, 6° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Sir H. Davie.	Mr. Beckett.
Lord Hotham.	Sir B. Hall.

Commodore *Seymour* further examined.

Mr. *Samuel Triscott* examined.

[Adjourned till Monday next, at Eleven.

Lunæ, 9° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Sir B. Hall.
Sir H. F. Davie.	Mr. Beckett.

His Grace the Duke of *Northumberland*, Commodore *Eden*, and Captain *Hamilton*, examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven.

Martis, 10° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Mr. Beckett.
Sir H. F. Davie.	Sir B. Hall.

Admiral *Rich*, Mr. *Thomas Lloyd*, Captain *Dundas*, Mr. *John Fincham*, and Sir *Baldwin Walker*, examined.

Mr. *Stafford*, M. P., further examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Mercurii, 11° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Sir B. Hall.
Mr. Beckett.	Sir H. F. Davie.

Mr. *Disraeli*, M. P., and Captain *Duncombe*, M. P., examined.

Mr. *Stafford*, M. P., Sir *Baldwin Walker*, and Captain *Duncombe*, M. P., further examined.

Admiral *Berkeley*, M. P., examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Twelve o'clock.

Jovis, 12° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Mr. Beckett.	Sir H. F. Davie.
Lord Hotham.	Sir B. Hall.

Mr. *Stafford*, M. P., Mr. *John Beer*, and Sir *Francis Baring*, M. P., examined.

Mr. *Pennell*, examined.

Mr. *Stafford*, M. P., further examined.

Admiral *Berkeley*, M. P., further examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Veneris, 13° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Sir B. Hall.
Mr. Beckett.	Sir H. F. Davie.

The Earl of *Derby*, and Mr. *Tufnell*, M. P., examined.

Mr. *John Beer*, and Sir *Baldwin Walker*, further examined.

Mr. *Robert Bell* examined.

Mr. *Stafford*, M. P., further examined.

Mr. *Walter Eden* examined.

Adjourned till Monday, 23d instant, at Twelve o'clock.

Lunæ, 23° *die Maii*, 1853.

PRESENT:

LORD SEYMOUR, in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Mr. Beckett.
Sir H. F. Davie.	Sir B. Hall.

The Committee proceeded to consider their Report.

Report agreed to.

Ordered to report, together with the Minutes of Evidence.

EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME of WITNESS.	Profession or Condition.	By what Member of Committee Motion made for Attendance of the Witness.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Discharge.	Total Number of Days in London.	Number of Days under Examination by Committee, or acting specially under their Orders.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Expenses in London.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
							£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Thomas Scott	Relieving Officer	Chairman	2 May	2 May	1	1	– 11 –	– 10 6	1 1 6
John Ollis	Conductor of Metal Mills.	,,	,,	,,	1	1	– 11 –	– 10 6	1 1 6
George Cotsell	Master Smith	,,	2 May	3 May	2	2	– 11 –	1 1 –	1 12 –
Captain Richards	R. N.	,,	2 –	5 –	3	3	– 13 –	3 3 –	3 16 –
Admiral Fanshaw		,,	2 –	5 –	3	3	2 – –	3 3 –	5 3 –
Benjamin Cross	Master Tailor, Marines.	,,	2 –	5 –	3	3	3 14 –	1 11 6	5 5 6
William H. Ching	Bootmaker	,,	2 –	5 –	3	3	3 14 –	2 5 –	5 19 –
Thomas Mortimore	Sergeant, Marines	,,	2 –	5 –	3	3	2 1 –	1 11 6	3 12 6
Colonel Coryton		,,	2 –	6 –	4	4	6 – –	4 4 –	10 4 –
Commodore Seymour		,,	2 –	6 –	4	4	6 – –	4 4 –	10 4 –
Samuel Triscott	Storekeeper	,,	2 –	6 –	4	4	6 – –	4 4 –	10 4 –
Serjeant King	Sergeant, Marines	,,	3 –	6 –	3	3	– 10 –	1 11 6	2 1 6
Commodore Eden		,,	– –	– –	Various journeys		1 8 –	– –	1 8 –
Admiral Rich		,,	7 –	10 –	3	3	6 2 –	3 3 –	9 5 –
John Beer	Solicitor	,,	10 –	13 –	4	4	6 – –	8 8 –	14 8 –
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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 28° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Seymour.	Lord Hotham.
Mr. Beckett.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Sir Henry Ferguson Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, called in; and Examined.

Sir *B. Walker.*

28 April 1853.

1. *Chairman.*] YOU are Surveyor of the Admiralty?—I am.

2. Among the Parliamentary Papers that have lately been brought under the notice of Parliament, there is one, No. 272, ordered by the House to be printed on the 18th of March 1853, and among those documents there is a letter of yours to Mr. Stafford, the Secretary of the Admiralty, dated the 21st of April 1852; first, I will ask you, is that your letter?—It is.

3. Then, will you state to this Committee the circumstances which led to your writing that letter?—I have drawn out a statement with reference to this correspondence if the Committee will allow me to read it. About the 31st of March 1852, Mr. Grant came to me from Mr. Stafford, with a request that I would not submit the names of the persons to be promoted into the vacancies for foreman and inspector of shipwrights in Devonport Dockyard, as Mr. Stafford's political friends were dissatisfied; he wished to promote some of their party. I felt annoyed at receiving such a message, and requested Mr. Grant to inform Mr. Stafford that I had been upwards of four years in the department; that I had not allowed political motives to influence my submissions to the Board with respect to promotions in the dockyards, and that I was not going to commence jobbing for him or anybody else, and I requested that such a proposition should never again be named to me; Mr. Eden, of my department, entered the room during the conversation, and heard what I said to Mr. Grant. On the 3d of April 1852 I received the confidential letter referred to by Mr. Stafford in his speech in the House of Commons, on the evening of the 19th of April 1853, to which I replied on the same day (3d of April 1852), and on the 5th of the same month I had a warm argument with Mr. Stafford at the Admiralty, during which he informed me that as his political friends were dissatisfied at the manner in which promotions and entries were made in the dockyards, he had no alternative but to cancel the circular of September 1849, and on my pointing out the evil that would arise from such a step, he said, "There is no use blinking the question; I am so pressed by the Government that I cannot help myself," adding, that he was ready to take all the responsibility on his own shoulders. This interview ended in my informing Mr. Stafford that, if he cancelled the order without taking any other steps to rectify the evils he stated existed, I should consider it as a personal thing to myself. On the 19th of April 1852, the circular was cancelled by Mr. Stafford without the knowledge of the Board, but no notice was sent to the Surveyor, and he only knew

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that such was the case by the dockyard returns acknowledging its receipt. On the same day (21st of April 1852) I wrote the following letter tendering my resignation: "Somerset House, 21 April 1852. Sir,—You having been pleased to inform me that great dissatisfaction existed among your political friends at the manner in which the promotions, &c. were made in the dockyards, and that it was your intention, in consequence, to cancel their Lordships' circular of the 29th September 1849, which directs that all papers respecting vacancies and promotions should be sent through the surveyor to their Lordships; and as the cancelling of this circular is the only step taken to remedy the evil you were pleased to state existed, it can bear no other construction than that of a censure on my conduct. I must therefore beg to tender to their Lordships my resignation, for I can no longer continue to hold the appointment of Surveyor of the Navy with such an imputation on my character as that of allowing political motives to influence my submissions to the Board." This letter was addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty. That letter I read to the Senior Naval Lord, Vice-Admiral Parker, he being immediately connected with my department (Captain Milne was present at the time). Admiral Parker took the letter, and told me that he would bring it before the Board. I think it was on the day following the delivery of my letter that I was sent for, and Admiral Parker asked me if I would meet Mr. Stafford in his room to talk over the subject of that letter, which I did; and during that interview the order cancelling the circular of September 1849, was warmly discussed, and Mr. Stafford again repeated what he had stated on a former occasion, namely, "There is no use blinking the question; the fact is, I am so pressed by the Government I cannot help myself." On my stating to Mr. Stafford that cancelling the circular must lower me in the opinion of the superintendents of the dockyards, he assured me that such was not his intention, and that he was ready to write any private letter I thought proper to them, to which I replied that I required no private communication, his had been a public act, and it could only be rectified by a public act, to which Mr. Stafford said that he saw no objection to a public letter being sent. I then told Mr. Stafford that was a question for the Board to decide; I had tendered my resignation, and it was for the Board to say what was to be done. Mr. Stafford then read a draft of a circular he proposed should be brought before the Board for their decision, in which some alteration was made. Admiral Parker had my letter in his hand during the interview, which contained my resignation. On the 27th of April 1852, Admiral Parker informed me that the Board had ordered the circular to be sent to the dockyards.

4. Mr. *Beckett.*] You mean the circular last drawn up?—Yes; which I will read directly. He said he thought I ought to be satisfied; to which I replied that although it cleared my character, I did not consider it satisfactory, for the Board had confirmed an act the Secretary had been guilty of without their knowledge. On the 28th of April 1852, I received the following letter from the Admiralty, enclosing a copy of the circular to the superintendent of the dockyards: "I am to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the superintendents of the several dockyards, with reference to their Lordships' circular order of the 19th instant, respecting the transmission of reports and correspondence connected with the removal or promotions of the officers and workmen in the dockyards. Dated 26th September 1852. By command of their Lordships, *Augustus Stafford*, Secretary. The Surveyor of the Navy." The circular is as follows: "Misconstruction having arisen with reference to their Lordships' circular issued on the 19th instant, I am to acquaint you that no imputation is intended to be cast thereby on the Surveyor of the Navy; the arrangements with regard to dockyard promotions, as laid down by their Lordships' circular of the 27th of February 1847, will be strictly adhered to; and they deem it desirable to revert to the system then in force of having all communications on the subject addressed to this office in the first instance. (signed) *Augustus Stafford.*" (Parliamentary Paper, 271.) That circular I considered an answer to the letter I wrote tendering my resignation; that letter I had no idea had not been officially brought forward, nor was I aware when I wrote to the Board on the 25th of November 1852, that it had been destroyed, for I never authorised its destruction or withdrawal, and considered it had been before the Board, and was on record. I wrote the letter of the 21st of April 1852, in consequence of an imputation having been cast upon my character, which the Board's circular of the 26th of April 1852 had cleared up;

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up; but finding that unjust promotions were being made in the dockyards, and that the circular of February 1847 was not adhered to, I felt that I had a duty to perform to the public, which induced me to write the letter of the 10th of May 1852, to the First Lord of the Admiralty. That letter is as follows: "Somerset House, 10th May 1852. My Lord Duke,—I feel that I should be neglecting my duty were I not to point out to your Grace the evil system which has been pursued of late, not only with respect to my position as Surveyor of the Navy, but also with reference to the appointments and promotions in the dockyards. Your Grace is aware that the Secretary of the Admiralty thought proper to cancel, without the knowledge of the Board, their Lordships' circular of the 29th September 1849, which directs that all papers respecting promotions and vacancies in the dockyards should be sent through the Surveyor to their Lordships; this order of 1849 was only reverting to a system which had always been in force prior to 1845, and which was then discontinued, I have reason to believe, on personal grounds. The abolition of a system which was found to work well for upwards of three years, causing an annual saving of 130,000 *l.* in the wages of the artificers of the dockyards, independent of upwards of 60,000 *l.* in the steam factories, without impairing the efficiency of those establishments, must be prejudicial to the public interest, and has tended much to lower the position of the Surveyor; now, there is no one to control the establishments, and the Surveyor can no longer be held responsible for the estimates not being exceeded, or can he be answerable for the efficiency of those establishments, for the Board's admirable circular of February 1847, which directs that all advancement in the dockyards shall be for merit alone, has been virtually thrown aside; vacancies have been filled up which were not necessary, and men advanced, not for merit, but by political influence; and in one instance a person has been promoted who is not competent to fill the situation to which he has been appointed; and that was done without any reference having been made to the superintendent of the yard. Having stated thus much, I think it right to inform your Grace, that I attribute the inconsiderate manner in which I have been put aside by the Secretary of the Admiralty to my unqualified refusal to depart from their Lordships' circular of February 1847, by lending myself to recommend men for advancement on political grounds. In conclusion, I beg to assure you, my Lord Duke, that I have made this statement from no personal motives, my only wish being the public good, and that your Grace's administration should not be tarnished." I requested Captain Pelham to deliver to the Duke of Northumberland the letter which I have now read; I then took a copy of that letter, and read it to the First Naval Lord, Admiral Hyde Parker, who remarked, "I think you are quite right; there is nothing like going to the fountain head." I never received any reply to that letter. On the 22d of November 1852, I received a note from Mr. Stafford, enclosing the notice Admiral Berkeley intended to give in the House of Commons respecting the correspondence between the Admiralty and the Surveyor. Mr. Stafford wished to know what it meant, as he was not aware of any, and my reply was as follows. I cannot now find a copy of the correspondence which took place respecting the promotions in the dockyards, but I have no doubt my letters on the subject are at Whitehall. Here I may explain that I received this note at Somerset House, begging me to reply to it immediately; the copies of the letters were at my private residence. On the following day, the 23d of November 1852, Mr. Stafford replied to Admiral Berkeley and Sir George Pechell, that there was no correspondence with the Surveyor of the Navy on the subject of promotions in the dockyards; and also that the Surveyor of the Navy had not tendered his resignation. On the 25th of November 1852, in consequence of the answer given by the Secretary of the Admiralty in the House of Commons, I wrote the following letter to the Board, calling their attention to my letters of the 21st of April and the 10th of May 1852: "Sir,—Having observed in the public papers, that the Secretary of the Admiralty is reported to have stated in the House of Commons, on the evening of the 23d instant, in reply to certain questions asked by Admiral Berkeley and Sir George Pechell, that there was no correspondence with the Surveyor of the Navy on the subject of the promotions in the dockyards, and also, that the Surveyor of the Navy had not tendered his resignation, I desire, through you, to call the attention of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to letters from me, bearing date the 21st of April, and the 10th of May last. I have &c., (signed) *B. W. Walker*, Surveyor of the Navy. To Augustus Stafford, Esq., M.P., &c., Secretary

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Secretary of the Admiralty." On my going to the Admiralty on that day, the 25th of November 1852, I was told that Mr. Stafford wished to speak to me; when I saw him, he commenced a conversation by naming my letter, and stating the answers he had given in the House of Commons. I then asked him what could have induced him to give such answers, and he replied, "What would you have had me say?" My answer was, "Anything but what you did say; for you know that I tendered my resignation, and that some days afterwards I wrote a letter to the First Lord of the Admiralty." That he stated was a private one (pointing at the same time to what appeared to me to be a copy of my letter) to the Duke of Northumberland, which was on his table. I replied, "That it was a letter from the Surveyor of the Navy to the First Lord of the Admiralty," and left the room. On the 27th of November 1852, I received a letter dated the 26th, from the Admiralty, signed by Mr. Stafford, directing me to furnish copies of the letters, as they were not to be found in the Record Office.

5. *Chairman.*] Does the letter of the 27th of November appear among those documents?—Yes; I received it on the 27th; it is dated on the 26th (Parliamentary Paper, 272, p. 11). I had copies made, and I wrote the following letter: "Sir,—In compliance with their Lordships' order of the 26th instant, I beg to enclose copies of my letters of the 21st of April and the 10th May, as therein directed, together with a copy of a memorandum from the Secretary of the Admiralty, enclosing a copy of their Lordships' circular order to the dockyards, of the 26th of April last." This letter was not delivered in.

6. Lord *Hotham.*] What is the date of that letter?—The 27th of November: this is the original letter. That letter with the enclosure I took to Whitehall; but when I got there it was late, and the Members had left, it being Saturday. I took the letter to my house, intending to send it in on Monday morning. On Sunday the 28th I received a note from Mr. Stafford, to request that I would meet him at the Admiralty on Monday morning, between nine and eleven o'clock; I went there soon after nine o'clock on Monday the 29th of November 1852, and saw Mr. Stafford, who told me that he had hit on a plan of settling the affair, and if I would meet his wishes, if ever we again differed, the fault should be mine, and not his; I asked him what it was; he said "Do not send the copies of the letters called for;" I told him that I must, for I had got an official letter to do so. He pressed me hard to agree to his proposal, but I did not consent, stating that I could not with any propriety do so. I left Mr. Stafford and went to Admiral Parker; I told him that I was going to send in the copies of the letters (I had them then in my hand); one to the Duke of Northumberland, and the other tendering my resignation, which he must recollect he had brought forward. He stated that he did, and advised me before I sent them in, to see the First Lord, which I did; and much to my surprise his Grace told me that he had never seen or heard of the letter tendering my resignation; and stated with much warmth, that had it been given to him he should have at once taken it to Lord Derby. I reminded his Grace that he had spoken to me on the subject of that letter; and on the Duke again repeating what he had said, I told his Grace that I held in my hand a copy of that letter, which he was at perfect liberty to make what use he thought proper of. About this time Admiral Parker entered the room, and I expressed to him my surprise at hearing his Grace state that he had not seen or heard of the letter tendering my resignation; on which Admiral Parker reminded the Duke that he had put the letter into his hand. The Admiral then informed me that he had been thinking the matter over since I left him, and that he did not think my letter had been brought before the Board, and that he had an impression that it had been destroyed. I immediately left the Admiralty and went to Somerset House, taking the letter and copies back with me; and feeling much hurt and annoyed. I had not been there long before Captain Milne came to me from Mr. Stafford, with a request that I would not send in the copies of the letters. This point I did not give in, but wrote another letter, which I will read to the Committee. This letter was not delivered; I took this to the Admiralty.

7. *Chairman.*] To whom did you give it?—I put this letter, with the enclosure, into Mr. Stafford's hands, but I withdrew it afterwards at the earnest wish of Mr. Stafford and Captain Milne: "Somerset House, 29th November 1852. Sir, —With reference to your letter of the 26th instant, I beg to acquaint you, that since my communication of the 25th instant, I have been informed that my letter of the 21st of April, addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, which

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was delivered to Vice-Admiral Hyde Parker, was not brought before the Board; and with reference to the letter of the 10th of May, it was a communication addressed to the First Lord of the Admiralty, copies of which I beg to enclose. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, *B. W. Walker.*—Aug. Stafford, Esq., M.P., &c. &c. &c., Admiralty." That letter, with those copies made out in my office at the time, I placed in the hands of Mr. Stafford, who on opening it, expressed his surprise at my having enclosed copies of the letters, as Captain Milne had led him to believe that I had promised to withhold them: I assured him that I had not made such a promise. He further stated that it was of no use sending them in to be placed in the Record Office, to be read by all the clerks; and he begged me to again see Captain Milne on the subject, which I did; and I was induced to give in the point at that officer's urgent request, who stated that there was no use in raking up an affair that had passed over; and from my feeling that Mr. Stafford had committed himself in having given the answer he did in the House of Commons.

8. *Chairman.*] Will you state to the Committee what promotions had been made in the dockyard from the time when Mr. Stafford first came to the Admiralty, as Secretary, up to the time when that first letter to you on the subject of promotions was written, which I understand was on the 2d of April?—I am not at this moment aware of any having taken place within that period.

9. Do you mean there had been no promotions?—I do not think there had been one promotion that I can recollect at this moment, from the time that the Government entered office, up to the 3d of April; I presume that that letter was with reference to a former period, not from the time that the Government entered office, up to the 2d of April.

10. A letter was read in the House of Commons from Mr. Stafford to you, to this effect: "Dear Sir Baldwin,—I find that great dissatisfaction exists among my political friends as to the present arrangement of appointments and promotions in the dockyards, as there is a very general impression that all those things are dispensed among our political opponents, insomuch that there seems no alternative but to resume the system which existed previous to September 1849; I need not tell you that no one considers the blame, if blame there be, to rest with you, but you are thought too far removed from politics altogether to understand the small intrigues which go on in these places. For myself I hate the notion of patronage altogether, and the change of the existing arrangement would only expose me to perpetual annoyance and trouble, but in any case your wishes would always have great weight with me. In the perfect frankness with which I now state the case, and ask your opinion, I hope you will perceive the sincere respect with which I remain, dear Sir Baldwin, yours, &c., *Augustus Stafford.*" Had no promotions taken place in the dockyards from the date when Mr. Stafford first came to the Admiralty up to the 2d of April, when he wrote that letter, which could give cause for dissatisfaction?—I am not aware at this moment of any; the only thing that strikes me at the present moment was the promotion of a person in a lower grade at Woolwich, which was an arrangement made by Mr. Stafford himself and approved.

11. To the best of your belief no promotion whatever had taken place from the date of that Government coming into power to the 2d of April?—I do not recollect; I only recollect that one case at this moment; I am not prepared with a return of that date, because the appointment I spoke of was after the date of that note.

12. You stated that, on the 5th of April, a warm argument had taken place between you and Mr. Stafford as to the promotions?—Yes; with reference to the cancelling of the circular, I received that letter; I received that letter as I entered Mr. Stafford's room; he left a message that he wished to see me in the morning; when I got by his door they put this note into my hand, and when I entered Mr. Stafford said, "I have answered your note, and I wish to speak to you on the subject;" and then that conversation which I have repeated just now took place.

13. Then that conversation did not refer, as I understand you, to any promotions which had actually taken place since Mr. Stafford had been at the Admiralty?—No; because no promotions could have taken place without his signature.

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14. You stated that on the 19th of April the circular of 1849 was cancelled without the knowledge of the Board?—Yes.

15. How do you know that the circular was cancelled without the knowledge of the Board?—Admiral Parker informed me that it was without the knowledge of the Board.

16. Then it rests on the information of Admiral Parker?—Yes.

17. Will you state what your interpretation of "the knowledge of the Board" is. If it was not cancelled without the knowledge of the First Lord, should you consider that being cancelled without the knowledge of the Board?—Without it was a Board minute.

18. You mean that there was no official Board minute cancelling it?—Yes, no official Board minute. That information I received from Admiral Hyde Parker.

19. Then on the 21st you wrote your letter, which we have here, tendering your resignation?—I did.

20. In placing the letter in the hands of Sir Hyde Parker, did you not place it conditionally?—No; Admiral Parker is the immediate head of my department; the Senior Naval Lord is the immediate head of the Surveyor's Department, and all communications with reference to the Surveyor's Department are conducted by the Senior Naval Lord; and I felt that I should be wanting in courtesy if I had not informed him of the letter I had written. I took that letter to Whitehall, and read it to Admiral Parker, and he took it from me, and said he would bring it before the Board. Admiral Parker, as far as my character was concerned, expressed his opinion that I would abide by his decision so far as clearing my character went, but nothing beyond that.

21. I understand that you intended that letter as an actual resignation of your office?—I did.

22. Then having so tendered your resignation, why did you not, upon receiving no definite reply, write and inquire when you were to be relieved from your duties?—I received an official communication from the Board, dated the 28th of April, enclosing a circular, stating that there was no imputation intended to be cast upon my character. The word "imputation" was in my letter of resignation, and I concluded that that was an answer to my letter; and as my character had been cleared, I thought there was no other step necessary.

23. You considered that receiving that letter your resignation was virtually withdrawn?—Not withdrawn; but as far as my character was concerned, it was cleared.

24. But you then continued your duties, in point of fact, and withdrew your resignation, did you not?—No; I considered my resignation only so far as clearing my character, and that my character was cleared, but nothing more; I did not consider that my letter was cancelled in any way.

25. Having received, on the 28th, a letter clearing your character, you having tendered your resignation, you still did not write to the Admiralty, and say that then having your character cleared, you wished to retire with all credit from the office you held?—No, I did not; I took no further steps; I considered my character cleared.

26. You continued to carry on the duties of your office?—Yes.

27. Without making any other application to enforce that resignation you had tendered?—Certainly not; I received no letter to say that my resignation had been accepted, and I considered that my character had been cleared by the circular that they had sent.

28. You stated that between the 21st of April and the 10th of May you found that unjust promotions were made in the dockyards, for on the 10th of May you wrote to the Duke of Northumberland, as you stated?—I did not state between any period; I stated that generally unjust promotions had been made.

29. Then unjust promotions had been made from the time of that Government coming into office up to the 10th of May?—Yes.

30. Will you refer the Committee to those promotions that you conceived to be unjust?—There was a shipwright at Woolwich that was recommended to be promoted to be a leading man; there were two in April and November 1851 recommended to fill one vacancy, one of them to be selected: Edward Harding and William Lacey.

31. Were those appointments or promotions?—Promotions.

32. They

32. They were the shipwrights promoted?—No; their names were submitted for promotion in November 1851, and in consequence of leading men being over the establishment, I submitted to the Board that the vacancy should not be filled up, and in consequence the promotion did not take place; the same two men were again submitted on the 25th of March 1852.

33. By whom were the same two men submitted for promotion?—By the Commodore Superintendent at Woolwich.

34. Mr. *Beckett.*] In both cases?—Yes.

35. Sir *B. Hall.*] Who is the commodore?—Commodore Eden. On the 19th of April 1852 the names of eight men were submitted, four to be selected for the vacancies of leading men, in addition to the two I have before named, a selection of five to be promoted.

36. *Chairman.*] Out of 10?—Yes.

37. Lord *Hotham.*] They were submitted by Commodore Eden, were they not?—Yes.

38. *Chairman.*] In order to vindicate the expression "unjust promotions," do I understand you to mean that the 10 names were not fairly selected for promotion?—No; they were fairly selected, but those that were promoted were not fairly selected.

39. Out of the 10?—Yes.

40. It is usual, is it not, for a certain number of names to be submitted by the Superintendent of the Dockyard, out of which the selection is made?—Yes; in the first case, Edward Harding, having 18 years' servitude, was promoted, and he voted for the Government candidate.

41. When was he promoted?—He was promoted on the 8th of May; William Lacey, who had 18 years and 11 months' servitude, was passed over; and George Campbell, a man of nine years and nine months' servitude, who was also a voter for the Government candidate, was promoted; William Lacey was again passed over, who had 18 years and 11 months' servitude; George Bannister, who had nine years and nine months' servitude, was promoted, and his father voted for the Government candidate; William Cullum, who had eight years and 11 months' servitude, and who also voted for the Government candidate, was promoted; and William Lacey, who had 18 years and 11 months' servitude, was allowed to remain a working man. Those papers were sent to me on the 16th of May from the Admiralty, and with the names of these men, and George Bristow, with 31 years' servitude, and those five were selected; the papers, which are not to be found in the Record Office, with all the particulars of these cases, were sent to me with the names on the back, without date or signature.

42. From where?—From the Admiralty.

43. On the 7th of May?—I made a minute on the 7th of May; they were forwarded on the 6th of May; they were without date or signature, so far as the names were concerned.

44. Is that the usual way in which you have received them?—No; before that they came from the superintendent to me, and I made my submission, selecting those men that I thought were worthy of promotion, and I enclosed the whole of the papers, with my submission, to the Admiralty for decision; but those papers came to me with the names written, without date and without signature, and I returned them with my submission.

45. When they came to you, did they come as appointments made?—They were not made.

46. They came to you, as you conceived, for your opinion?—I supposed so, and I stated this: "I beg to return the enclosed papers sent to me yesterday, and to observe, that I do not concur in the selection of all the men named, as it appears to me that Wm. Lacey has a prior claim to promotion, having been recommended before any of those named in the letter of the 19th April, and whose servitude is greater than any, except John Bristow." Then, in the same paper there was a recommendation for a writer, and there were two names submitted: William Stone, who had 30 years and 7 months' servitude, and G. H. Prowse, who had only 2 years and 9 months' servitude.

47. Was he passed over?—No; he was promoted, though he had only two years and nine months' service; and a man with 30 years and 7 months' service was not promoted. Prowse's father voted for the Government candidate.

48. You seem to know which way Prowse voted, and Harding, and Bannister; do you know whether William Lacey voted?—He had no vote, I believe.

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49. William Stone?—No, I believe he had no vote; I am not aware that he had any vote. I will read my submission: "Nor do I consider that G. H. Prowse, who has only two years and nine months' servitude, should be selected for a writer in preference to W. Stone, who has 30 years and 7 months' servitude, and is reported equally eligible." In the case of two riggers being submitted for promotion; there was S. Phillips, who had 13 years and 5 months' servitude, and D. Rayhill, who had 10 years and 5 months' servitude. S. Phillips was passed over, and Rayhill was promoted, who had not his servitude. Phillips was a voter for Admiral Stewart, and again the same man was passed over. That man, Phillips, was recommended by the officers for promotion expressly.

50. By what officers?—At Woolwich dockyard.

51. What officers recommended him?—The yard officers at Woolwich.

52. There are three, are there not?—The department he comes under is the master attendant's department; and I mean the officers connected with his department.

53. There is a head of each department who recommends those under him; is that so?—The shipwright officers, the shipwrights, and the riggers the master attendant, and so on.

54. Lord *Hotham.*] I suppose they recommend to the superintendent?—Yes, everything goes through him.

55. *Chairman.*] Does the superintendent then make his selection from those recommendations, or does he add any notes?—Yes; he generally encloses them with his remarks, if there is anything particular; if there is nothing particular to recommend he encloses it in the general way.

56. To see fully whether those men were passed over or not on any good grounds, it is necessary to know whether the superintendent made any note upon the recommendations of the dockyard officers?—Yes; and I should have had the particulars had he done so; and I had a search made for two days in the Records of the Admiralty when I heard that there was to be an inquiry, but those papers are nowhere to be found.

57. The papers relating to the recommendations?—Yes; the whole of the papers respecting the recommendations, and with my submission, are not to be found.

58. Those papers you have seen?—Yes, I have seen them, and made my submission, and signed it.

59. Lord *Hotham.*] Is there any entry of them in any book?—They are not at the Record Office; I went there myself, and tried to trace the dates and names, but no trace of them at all was to be found.

60. *Chairman.*] Are not documents entered at the Admiralty as they are at the Treasury, so that if a paper is taken away, the number is missing?—I am not aware of what is done at the Admiralty; in my department, the moment a paper comes it is numbered and entered.

61. When a paper is entered and numbered, it cannot be taken away afterwards without leaving a vacancy in that number?—No; When I was in the Record Office, the head of that office told me that the papers had not reached that office.

62. If it had, would it have been numbered?—Yes, certainly, and noted in a book.

63. You returned those papers, as I understand to the Admiralty?—I did.

64. As the documents are lost, they were lost, as it appears, somewhere between Somerset House and the Admiralty; will you state how you returned them to the Admiralty?—I returned them on the 7th May 1852, and on the 8th of May those men were promoted.

65. In what way did you return then?—In the usual way; they were put into a box and locked, which is opened at the Admiralty; it goes to the Board-room; on the following day those men were promoted; my submission ended as follows: "Moreover, as vacancies will be required next month for about 15 of the shipwright apprentices, now under instruction at the central school, who have been promised the appointment of leading men on their leaving that school, I am of opinion that two vacancies at Woolwich should be reserved for these young men, and a proportionate number at the other yards, as they may occur." The consequence now is, that those vacancies were all filled up, and 15 pupils left the Naval School; there was no vacancy in any of the yards, and they entail an extra expense upon the Government of 1,170*l.*; they are now borne as supernumerary draughtsmen, and are not required in the yards.

66. Is

66. Is there a certain time in the year when vacancies are always required for the school?—No; it was found that it was impossible to provide for the number that was proposed in 1847 for the central school, and it was decided to do away with the school, and these young men, according to the promise made by the Admiralty, were to return to the dockyards as leading men, so as not to break faith with them; it was decided that they should return as leading men, but no other pupils were to be entered.

67. How many were there to return?—Fifteen.

68. They were discharged from the school in June 1852, at an additional expense of 1,170*l.*?—Yes; this was the first instance in which they were removed from the school.

69. Then this was a most unusual instance, having in June 1852 to provide for 15 young men?—Yes; but we were aware of that for a year or two before.

70. Had they not been kept, as it was, a year in the school longer than was intended?—A certain number of them, four or five of them, I am not certain as to the number; those that entered the first year were kept a year longer.

71. Therefore, properly, five of them ought to have been provided for in June 1851?—The Board had decided only to keep them in three years; and as they decided to keep them in four years, to reduce the number, they made them serve another year.

72. But the Board, in 1851, by determining to keep the men in another year, kept the vacancies applicable to other purposes, did they not?—The men were submitted for promotion in November 1851, and again in March, and the vacancies were not filled up in consequence, so as to provide for the pupils as they came out.

73. In 1851 the vacancies had been kept on purpose?—Yes.

74. How many vacancies were kept in November 1851, for this purpose?—I have not got that return here exactly; but this case in point was kept open on that account. That man, Phillips, was again passed over in December 1852; he had 14 years' servitude, and Davis 9 years and 11 months. Davis was a voter for the Government candidate, and he was promoted, and Phillips was a second time passed over. He is now a rigger, and has not been promoted.

75. Were both the names, Phillips and Davis, sent up at the same time?—Four were submitted: Phillips, 14 years and 1 month; Thomas Gould, 11 years and 1 month; John Davis, 9 years and 11 months; Henry Little, 5 years and 1 month. Davis was promoted, who was a voter for the Government candidate, and Phillips was again passed over.

76. You have read those promotions; of course, at the time you looked carefully to all the men who were promoted, and also to those who were passed over?—Yes, I went fully into the papers that were sent to me.

77. Will you state to the Committee whether any were recommended who had no votes, or whether any were promoted who had voted for the opposite political party?—I am not aware of any, further than in the case of Phillips. He had been a voter for Admiral Stewart, who was in the opposite party, and he was on two occasions passed over, and his juniors in seniority and servitude were promoted; and in the one instance, Rayhill, I am not aware who he voted for, but in the case of Davis he voted for Mr. Rolt, the Government candidate.

78. In the commencement of your explanation as to those promotions, you stated that in November 1851, the names of two shipwrights at Woolwich were submitted for promotion?—Yes.

79. Those were at that time transmitted through you, were they not; for at that time the circular had not been issued?—Yes, they were sent to me, and I submitted that the vacancy should not be filled up, as we had some over the establishment, and it was desirable to keep the vacancies for the school. When the reduction took place in 1849, there was a number of leading men then over the new establishment, and it became necessary to provide for them. At Devonport, on the 26th of April 1852, John Benney, Edwin May, George Hicks, George Lampen, Robert Winnecott, Joseph Ridgeway, and James Ronneeval, seven labourers, were advanced to be sawyers on the 26th of April, without having been recommended by the superintendent; and the labourers who were doing duty as sawyers, who had been selected by the officers of the dockyard as the best men, were sent back to perform the duty of labourers. On the very day that the circular went to say that it would be strictly adhered to, the 26th of April; those men being recommended by the superintendent, or the officers,

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some of them voted for the Government candidate, the two first named; I am not aware of the others.

80. This, as I understand you, appeared to you to be not only an infraction of the circular of 1849, but an infraction of the circular of 1847?—Quite so; an infraction of the circular of 1847, and not that of 1849.

81. Even after that was cancelled it was, you think, not in accordance with the circular of 1847?—Certainly, a breach of the circular of 1847, which says, that they are to rise from merit alone.

82. How do you know that those promotions were not submitted by the superintendent of the dockyard?—I visited Devonport Dockyard at the time, and heard from the commodore of that yard how much he felt hurt at the way the things had been done.

83. Who was the superintendent?—Commodore Seymour.

84. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears in the circular of the 26th of April 1852, which you say virtually cancelled the circular of 1847, there are these words, "The arrangements with regard to the dockyard promotions as laid down by their Lordships' circular of 27th February 1847 will be strictly adhered to;" are the Committee to understand that you consider those promotions are in contravention of the circular of 1847, and at variance with the circular of the 26th of April 1852?—The circular of the 26th of April states, that the circular of February 1847 is to be strictly adhered to. Those appointments were made on the 26th of April, the very day that a letter went from the Admiralty, stating that the circular of 1847 would be adhered to, and it was a breach of that circular.

85. You consider that that was a breach of the circular of 1847, and a breach of the circular of 1852 also, which states, that the circular of 1847 is to be strictly adhered to?—Yes.

86. *Chairman.*] You have spoken of those seven men who were advanced to be sawyers; they were labourers you say, and they were put in advance over other men who were dismissed for that purpose?—Yes, the men who had been selected to perform the duty of sawyers by the officers of the yard, and approved by the superintendent, were removed to make room for those men who were selected without any reference having been made to the officer.

87. You are not aware that those men were voters, or not?—There are two or three of them voters for the Government candidates.

88. Of the seven?—Yes.

89. Did any of them vote the other way?—That I am not aware of; the two first voted for the Government candidates, Benney and May; in the same month, on the 5th of April, Joseph Ridgeway, at Chatham, a second-class leading man at the metal mills, was promoted to be acting first-class, without the recommendation of the officers, who reported him not competent to fill that situation.

90. Lord *Hotham.*] Against the recommendation of the superintendent?—Yes; in defiance of the report this man was promoted.

91. *Chairman.*] You say that this was against the recommendation of the superintendent?—Yes.

92. Have you got that recommendation here, or a note?—He was reported by the officers as not competent; and the superintendent wrote to the Admiralty a confidential report, stating that this man was not competent for the duty, and it would be an injury to the public service if he was advanced; he wrote on the 8th of April, and on the 11th the appointment was ordered to go forward.

93. That occurred on the 8th of April, and that was before the circular providing that the appointments should not pass through the office of the Surveyor?—Yes.

94. Therefore, that correspondence passed through your office?—Yes; I cannot correct that part of my evidence where I said I was not aware of the man being promoted; this man was promoted, but not before the 2d of April.

95. This man was promoted on the 5th or 6th of April?—He was ordered to be promoted on the 5th, and on the 11th of the same month his appointment was ordered to go forward.

96. Are the Committee to understand that this submission of the names from Chatham went to the Admiralty from the superintendent, without passing through your department?—The superintendent reported that there was no man competent in the metal mills to perform the duty.

97. You saw that correspondence?—Yes.

98. And

98. And you forwarded it to the Admiralty?—Yes, he recommended a man from a private trade for the metal mills. On the 15th, without any notice at all to the superintendent, or any communication, Joseph Ridgeway was ordered to be promoted as acting first class leading man. On the 8th, the superintendent pointed out the injury the public service would sustain by this man's advancement, but on the 11th, three days afterwards, his appointment was ordered to go forward. I may state, that after a trial of 12 months the superintendent was called upon in April 1853 to report whether he was competent to do the duty, in order to be confirmed, and he was reported not competent, and on the 7th of April he was ordered to return to his former place.

99. When this came to your office, early in April, did you make any note respecting Ridgeway, or the appointment of a man for the metal works at Chatham?—I do not think there was any observation; certainly not about his promotion. I did not know whether the vacancy was ordered to be filled up from the private trade, agreeably to the superintendent's recommendation; the metal mills are peculiar; they are very different from anything in the dockyard, and it was necessary to select a good man.

100. Has it since been filled up, since 1852?—It is ordered to be filled up by the best man that can be selected from the private trade; there is nobody competent.

101. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Was Ridgeway a voter?—Yes, he voted for the Government candidate, for Sir Frederick Smith.

102. *Chairman.*] Are there any other promotions that took place before you wrote your letter of the 10th of May, or promotions subsequently?—Those are promotions that took place before the 10th of May.

103. Those you have read are all that took place before the 10th of May, and which induced you to write that letter?—It was in consequence of those promotions I wrote the letter; I have not the list of those that have taken place since; I have the number that have taken place since.

104. In consequence of those promotions you wrote a letter on the 10th of May to the Duke of Northumberland?—I did.

105. And you gave that letter to Captain Pelham to deliver it?—I did.

106. Is that the usual way in which you transmit a letter to the head of the Admiralty?—Yes; I do not know of any other way; I should merely have to give it to him, or a messenger, and I should have done it under any circumstances; it was not a private letter; it was not so marked; it was a letter from the Surveyor of the Navy to the First Lord, pointing out the evil of the system; I thought it my duty to do that, and I did it from no ill feeling.

107. Did you consider that the regular official channel through which to send a letter when you meant it to be an official document?—I think private or official letters would go through the same channel.

108. The First Lord of the Admiralty has always exercised the power of making a letter either private or official, as he may conceive best for the public service?—I suppose he has that right.

109. From the 10th of May to the 22d of November it does not appear that you heard any more of those matters?—No; the arrangement was entirely taken out of my hands, and I had nothing more to do with it; I did what I thought was my duty, and I took no more notice of it; it was for the Board to decide whether the surveyor was to control or not.

110. Mr. *Beckett.*] Did you receive any reply to your letter to the Duke of Northumberland?—No reply.

111. Lord *Hotham.*] Captain Pelham was private secretary to the Duke of Northumberland, was he not?—He was.

112. *Chairman.*] What evidence was there of the appointments having been made by political influence, of which you complained on the 10th of May in your letter?—The appointment of those labourers that were at the dockyard at Devonport, when I was there, was from no other motive.

113. You have stated in reference to all of them, that they voted for the Government candidate?—Yes.

114. I presume you mean at the general election?—Yes.

115. That election did not take place until two months or more after this letter?—True, but the information I gained was by the canvassing party.

116. *Chairman.*] Do you mean that they were canvassing for the next election?

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tion?—When I say canvassing, it was well known in the yard, publicly known, that those men were promoted by the influence of that party.

117. Lord *Hotham.*] In point of fact, their having voted for the Government candidate was rather a confirmation of the opinion you entertained in May than anything else?—Yes, quite so. I was at a loss to account why this should have taken place, and I naturally inquired.

118. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Are you aware whether any of those men had ever voted at former elections?—I am not.

119. *Chairman.*] When you spoke in that letter in one instance of a person having been promoted who was not competent to fill the situation, who was the person you there alluded to?—The last man, named Ridgeway.

120. At Chatham?—Yes.

121. You say that this was done without any reference having been made to the superintendent of the yard?—Yes.

122. Did you not state that it was against the direct recommendation of the superintendent?—Yes. In the first instance it was made without his knowledge, and he held back the appointment and protested against it, but three days after the man was ordered still to go forward. I have Admiral Parker's permission to read some letters with reference to the appointments and vacancies in dockyards, and if the Committee will allow me I will do so.

123. Will you state the date?—This is on the 25th of August 1852.

124. Sir *B. Hall.*] When the matter was entirely taken out of your hands?—Entirely. "I quite agree with you about the master smith, and have no doubt the change will be advantageous to the public service. Richards," that is the superintendent at Chatham, "was with me this morning complaining of the jobbing taking place in Chatham yard; my advice was, resist in any good case; it is lamentable that this system is to go on through a Secretary who fancies himself the First Lord; it is disgusting, and the sooner it is exposed the better."

125. You stated, did you not, that on the 5th of April you had an interview with Mr. Stafford, and that you had an argument with him upon any alteration taking place with reference to the circular of 1849?—Yes.

126. Did Mr. Stafford state that his political friends were dissatisfied, and that he must cancel that circular?—Yes.

127. You stated that upon that you pointed out the evils that were likely to result from cancelling that circular, and I took down these words, that Mr. Stafford said, there was no use in blinking the question, that he was so pressed by the Government that he could not help himself; is that the case?—He stated that.

128. When he made use of that expression, did he mention the names of any Members of the Government who had pressed him to this course?—He did.

129. Whose names did he mention?—He mentioned Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

130. What did he say in reference to those Members of the Government having pressed him?—Perhaps "the Government" was a wrong term; I was anxious not to name any person, but Mr. Stafford's expression was, "There is no use blinking the question; I am so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that I cannot help myself;" that was again repeated in the presence of Admiral Parker during the interview I had on the subject of tendering my resignation,

131. Did Mr. Stafford seem to imply that he had received orders from those Members of the Administration whom you have named, that he must adopt the course which he was then taking?—I came to the conclusion that he had done so from his remark.

132. *Chairman.*] You have been Surveyor of the Navy since 1847, have you not?—Since the 1st of February 1848.

133. Will you inform the Committee whether, in the promotions in the dockyards since you have been Surveyor of the Navy, you can say that political influence has not been used in reference to those promotions?—I can most conscientiously say, so far as my knowledge goes, that not one man has been advanced on political grounds. Most certainly, during Sir Francis Baring's administration, he tied every officer down with the understanding that political influence was not in any way to interfere with the public service; and he made them pledge themselves that they would not use any political influence; and I think

I think if the Committee appeal to the superintendents of the present yards, they will find that he, before he granted their appointments, came to that understanding with them and the junior officers as well.

134. Most men in this country having political feelings one way or the other, I ask you whether you have any strong political feelings on one side or the other?—I have not; I have hardly been in England at all; I went to sea when not more than 11 years old, and I have been constantly employed; I never gave a vote in my life, and never took any part in politics anywhere.

135. You can sincerely say that you look to the good of the profession, and not to any political advantage one way or the other?—I can most conscientiously say that I have never gone to the right or to the left; I have not one act or one word that I wish concealed in this inquiry; I know of none.

136. Though you were no longer the channel through which promotions passed, yet I suppose you still heard of all the promotions that took place after the 10th of May, equally as before?—I merely got it from the monthly return which comes as a matter of course to the Surveyor.

137. Practically, you were informed of the promotions that took place?—Merely by that return; in no other way; I beg your pardon, it did not come through me; I was informed by the Admiralty.

138. During the months, from May to November, can you state what were the promotions?—I have the number here; there is the case of the furnace-man at Chatham, who was promoted to be a forgeman of the smiths; he was reported not qualified.

139. At what date was that?—On the 21st of May 1852.

140. He was reported by the superintendent as not qualified?—Yes; he was promoted on the 21st of May, and I will read the superintendent's submission, which is dated the 10th of May: "With reference to their Lordships' directions of the 5th instant, to state whether William Groves, who is a furnace-man, is qualified to fill the existing vacancy for a forgeman, I have the honour to enclose copies of the officers' representations to me on this subject, under date 17th September 1851, and of my letter transmitting the same to their Lordships, requesting an entry from private trade for this vacancy, on the score of the incompetency of any of the smiths in the yard to fill it. I now beg to add a further report from the officers, called for in consequence of their Lordships' present reference, and also to submit my own opinion on this subject. It has long been impressed on my mind, that the smithery of this establishment is perhaps more behind the general state of trade than any other handicraft carried on in the yard, not owing to any want of effort in the officers, so much as to the rapid strides made, and making in the manufacture of iron-work in private establishments. In the march of trade, our backwardness is most apparent in the use of Nasmyth's hammers, the efficient application of which valuable instruments depends on skilful and expert forgemen (the post in question), and furnacemen of similar ability, without which, these hammers must continue to be worked at a disadvantage, and almost profitless mediocrity. The vast distance between the yard mode of working these hammers and that of private trade, has recently been fully illustrated by the experimental working of the new forge here, by skilful and expert hired men, obtaining always more than double, and often a threefold result, manifestly not owing to want of exertion, but solely to want of skill in our men. It may be the wages allowed may continue to prove insufficient, as hitherto, to obtain a well skilled forgeman. It may be that their Lordships may see objections to a sufficient increase for that purpose. Still I would submit that William Groves should remain as at present, a furnace-man, in order to stimulate him and others to sufficient improvement to qualify for forgeman, thus not merely bringing him forward, but creating a spirit of emulation among the smiths generally, which could scarcely be expected if the best post were to be given to any man short of the proper qualification, however good his character may be. I quite concur in the opinion expressed by the officers on the preference to be given 'to an expert forgeman from private trade, who could instruct and improve our people.' On these grounds, and believing William Groves not properly qualified, I respectfully submit my opinion that his being placed in the present vacancy could not fail to operate prejudicially to the public service." That was from the superintendent of the dockyard to the Admiralty.

141. Who was the superintendent at Chatham?—Captain Richards.

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142. What date was that?—It was the 10th of May.

143. Addressed to whom?—Addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

144. That letter refers especially to William Groves not being fit for the place, because he was not well acquainted with the use of the Nasmyth's hammer?—Yes; the improvement that had taken place.

145. That hammer had not been introduced at Chatham before 1848, had it?—It was introduced in 1847 or 1848, I am not certain which.

146. Was there not a report made to the Admiralty in 1848, saying that Nasmyth's hammer was not so generally serviceable in the Naval Dockyards as in private yards?—Yes, that was the case.

147. That letter, I think, was laid before the Committee?—Yes; when we went round with the Committee of Revision in 1848, that opinion was expressed and approved of, and it was in consequence of that, and finding that the smitheries were so many years behind the private trade, and that there was no improvement, that Sir Henry Ward, the then Secretary of the Admiralty, strongly recommended a man to be selected from the private trade, and the man that was selected for the master smith at Woolwich was in consequence of the Report of that Committee.

148. You stated that the box to go to the Admiralty, containing those documents which have been lost, was given by you to the messenger, to be taken to the Board?—After I had signed it, it was entered in the book at Somerset House, and transmitted in the usual manner with the other papers, which, if it is a small document, is generally put under cover, and sent immediately; if not, it would be put into the box that goes to the Admiralty.

149. Can you state, or not, whether those papers were put into the box with other papers?—That I am not aware of; the head clerk of my department must be aware.

150. Who could answer that question?—Mr. Parkin, the head clerk of my department, who has the sole arrangement of the detail of the office. I think, in this instance, Mr. Eden, who is here summoned as a witness, and whose branch it belongs to, would be able to answer that question.

151. After you had ordered them to be sent to the Admiralty, you know no more of what became of them?—No more. It was entered and numbered, and of course went. There is no doubt about the papers having reached the Admiralty, because they were acted upon the following day.

152. Is that a sort of document that would be in the Record Office of the Admiralty?—Certainly.

153. In former years, have there been other cases in which documents, referring to promotions, have disappeared from the Admiralty, that you are aware of?—I am not aware of any, except documents respecting the master smith; none of those documents are to be found.

154. Have you in former years ever had occasion to refer to the Record Department of the Admiralty to look for papers regarding old promotions?—Frequently; on different subjects.

155. Can you recollect any case of which the papers were missing?—I cannot at this moment recollect any case.

156. Can you state the number of appointments that took place in the dockyards from the date of that circular, namely, the 19th April of 1852 up to November 1852?—I have a general return.

157. After what date?—A return from the 1st of April to the end of the year.

158. Will you state the number of appointments that took place from the 1st April 1852 to the end of the year?—I have not that return here.

159. You cannot state whether there was an unusual number of appointments?—My impression is, that there were about 300 more in 1852 than in the previous year, but the return I have neglected to bring.

160. Your impression is, that there were 300 appointments more?—Yes, that is my impression; more than in the previous year.

161. Or do you mean 300 appointments were made in that year?—Three hundred more than in the previous year. I have called for a return from all the dockyards of all entries since 1847, which I hope will be up to-morrow.

162. But there has been no general election since 1847?—No.

163. Therefore it would not show what appointments one Board may have made

made in an election year as compared with another Board's appointments?—No, certainly not; without you go back.

164. Going some years back we should find a general election in 1847, and should find whether any unusual number of appointments were made in that year, when there was a general election, as compared with 1852, when there was a general election?—Yes. I have here the number of men borne in the different years since 1830. In 1830 we had a total of 7,356; in 1834, 5,885; and it went on increasing, both in the establishment and in hired men, till in 1846 it got to 9,346 established and 3,449 hired, making a total of 12,795 in 1846. In 1848, at the end of the year, when I went to that department, there was an establishment of 12,498.

165. Was there an increase in that list?—About the same, and they remained the same; the present establishment is 9,653.

166. Was not the establishment of the dockyards a fixed and regular establishment, approved by the Admiralty, and was it not approved by an Order in Council?—It was.

167. What was the number fixed by the last Order in Council?—9,621.

168. Fixed as the establishment of the dockyards?—Yes; I proposed that establishment.

169. Has that establishment been exceeded?—No, I do not think it has been exceeded.

170. You do not think, although there was a number of appointments, that the establishment you had yourself sanctioned had been exceeded?—No. I proposed a programme of the work for five years; instead of having an establishment of 12,459, I proposed an establishment of 9,621, and that was confirmed by an Order in Council. The estimates, which had never been in the Surveyor's department, were ordered to be carried out by me, and I was made answerable for those estimates not being exceeded, and that the establishment should be kept under.

171. Do you consider that establishment of 9,621 larger than necessary, or not sufficient?—Quite sufficient. I think that it was 200 or 300; nearly 300 under that number in April 1852; between 200 and 300.

172. You contemplated, as it was 300 under the established number, raising it up to the established number?—No; on the contrary, we were reducing it; and, to prove how necessary it was, we this year will have 161 apprentices out of their time. On the 1st of January there were only 34 vacancies for them, so in consequence of eighty shipwrights having been entered last year, we must be beyond the establishment of shipwrights when the apprentices come out of their time; and I should have opposed those vacancies being filled up, that they should be preserved for the apprentices as they came out of their time.

173. I understand you to mean that though the filling up of those vacancies did not increase the establishment beyond the authorised number, yet it put the department to inconvenience by leaving no space for the apprentices to occupy?—Yes.

174. Mr. *Beckett.*] Can you refer to the appointments of 1841 as well as of 1847?—I can tell you the number borne in 1841; the number was 8,919.

175. *Chairman.*] Between 1841 and 1847 great exertions were made as to the steam navy?—Yes, and last year too.

176. Therefore the comparison of those two periods must be made with other considerations, as great factories have been established in some of the yards?—I do not include the factories.

177. You include nothing that belongs to the steam navy?—Nothing; it is a distinct thing altogether; those men are on the private trade, and they are entered and dismissed as necessary; but the same exertion I may observe has been made this year; and this year we shall have so many ships of the line with steam power afloat as to be nearly equal to what was done in those former years; at the end of this year we shall have 15 sail of the line with steam power.

178. As I understand you, the steam navy, more or less, does not affect the number in the dockyards?—Not as to the machinery or the factories; I now speak of the real workmen borne on the establishment of the dockyards, independently of the factories.

179. But in adapting vessels for steam power, would not the number of men in the dockyards be much employed?—It entails much additional work certainly,

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tainly, and great exertion has been required during this year, because a great number of steamers were built.

180. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Do those 300 appointments refer to permanent appointments, or merely men taken on for a week?—Permanent established appointments; when I say 300, that was merely my impression; I looked at the return which has been omitted.

181. Was there any unusual demand for labour in 1852, relative to the previous year, to require any increase of labourers?—Not necessarily an increase; we worked the establishment extra time, but there was no increase necessary.

182. *Chairman.*] You are in the habit officially of frequently seeing Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, were you not?—I am; he is immediately connected with my department; the surveyor's department is under the Senior Naval Lord.

183. After you had given him that letter, tendering your resignation, had you no further conversation with him, saying, that after the circular of the 26th of April, the matter should be carried no further?—No; I had no communication with him on the subject further than what I have stated.

184. Had you no communication at all, in reference to your letter, with Admiral Hyde Parker?—Nothing beyond what I have stated; when that circular went to the dockyard, Admiral Hyde Parker's remark was, "I think you ought to be satisfied;" and I said, although it cleared my character, I did not consider it satisfactory, as the Board had confirmed an act, that the Secretary had been guilty of without their knowledge. I am not aware of any further communication having taken place, and, I should never have written a letter in November, calling the Board's attention to my letter, had I known that it had been destroyed.

185. When you say that the Board confirmed the act that the secretary had done without their knowledge, how did you know what the Board of Admiralty had done?—Admiral Hyde Parker told me that it had been brought before the Board, and that it had been confirmed by the Board, and sent to the dockyard, and I got an official letter announcing it.

186. Did he also tell you that the first circular had been issued without their knowledge?—He did.

187. Those two statements rest upon what you had heard from Admiral Hyde Parker?—Yes.

188. You say that Admiral Hyde Parker also approved of your letter to the Duke of Northumberland?—Yes; he approved of my addressing the fountain head, as he called it; he said, "You are quite right; there is nothing like going to the fountain head;" that was not with reference perhaps to the subject of the letter, as that it was right I should address the fountain head.

189. You did not understand that Admiral Hyde Parker gave an opinion one way or the other, as to the statements you made in that letter?—No; I am not aware that he made another remark beyond what I have already stated.

190. On the 22d of November you first heard of the questions asked in the House of Commons?—Yes.

191. You first heard the questions that were about to be put?—Yes; a memorandum was sent to me by Mr. Stafford, to know what correspondence was alluded to. The copies of my letters were at my private residence. I was asked to give an immediate answer, and replied, "I cannot now find them; I conclude they are at Whitehall." This is a copy of the letter, which I will read: "I cannot now find a copy of the correspondence which took place respecting the promotions in the dockyards, but I have no doubt that my letters on the subject are at Whitehall." That was on the 22d of November.

192. You do not there refer to your copies which you had at your house?—No; I looked for them at the office and I could not find them; I found them in a despatch box at my house afterwards.

193. You thought, having sent them to the Admiralty, they were there?—I naturally concluded that they were there.

194. You stated, did you not, that your letter of the 21st of April, which you gave to Admiral Hyde Parker, was in his hand when you had that interview with Mr. Stafford?—Yes, it was.

195. But it was not read at that interview?—No, it was not read.

196. Was it so far alluded to that you considered Mr. Stafford perfectly aware of the contents of it?—It was only alluded to with reference to what I have repeated. I stated that I had tendered my resignation, and it was for the Board

to

to decide what steps were to be taken. Admiral Hyde Parker was present, and must have heard me.

197. Then on the 25th of November you wrote again to the Secretary of the Admiralty in reference to that correspondence?—Yes, I did.

198. And then you had also an interview with Mr. Stafford, in which you stated that you were dissatisfied with the answer he had given?—Yes; Mr. Stafford informed me that he had replied that there was no correspondence, and that I had not tendered my resignation; and I said, "What could have induced you to make such an answer?" and he said, the letter could not be found in the records; and he then alluded to the letter to the First Lord, and at the same time said, "That is a private letter" (pointing to a letter on the table), which appeared to me to be a copy of my letter to the First Lord of the Admiralty.

199. In tendering your resignation to a public office, was it not your opinion that the tender of resignation must be withdrawn, or the resignation must take place?—Without there was a full explanation; the only conclusion I came to was, that the circular sent to me officially, with the same expression that I had used in my public letter, was an answer.

200. That was the answer made to you; but you have said that the answer was not sufficiently satisfactory to make you withdraw your resignation?—No; pardon me, I did not tender my resignation because the routine of the office was taken out of my hands, but I tendered my resignation because an imputation had been cast upon my character; that stigma was removed, and I had nothing more to say.

201. Was not that virtually letting the resignation drop, as an affair altogether passed by?—Of course I had no idea of what steps the Board took as to my letter; whether any minute was made, and whether a circular was sent in explanation, I could not tell; I never received any official letter, to say that my resignation had been accepted. I continued to perform my duty, as my character had been cleared.

202. You considered that as your character had been cleared, you then could, with perfect satisfaction, carry on the duties of your office?—Quite so.

203. Mr. Stafford was placed in a difficulty in reply to the question, because if he had said that you had tendered your resignation, it would naturally have been asked why you continued in the office?—Certainly; I tendered my resignation, as there had been a slur cast upon my character, which was removed.

204. Yet you would not have been satisfied if Mr. Stafford had stated that you had tendered your resignation, and that an explanatory letter had been written to you and the resignation had gone no further?—Exactly; of course, I did not wish it to go beyond clearing my character.

205. In short you were, when you got that second circular, perfectly satisfied?—Yes.

206. Your only regret being, then, that you considered the public service prejudiced by the appointments?—Quite so; not for a moment that I wished to cast any reflection upon the superintendents of the dockyards, for a more zealous or efficient set of officers it is impossible to select; but I consider control necessary over the general establishment, and as to the estimates; and when it is seen by the return that the establishment went up from 1834, when it was 5,885, in 1847 to 12,459, I think the thing is apparent that there is a general control necessary. Although the superintendents may control the arrangements about the works to be done in the yards, it is impossible for them to know what the intention is as to building or repairing, what ships are to be repaired at their ports.

207. Now you are comparing the state of the dockyards in 1837 with their state in 1847?—The number of men.

208. Had there not been such complaints respecting the low state of the dockyards in 1837, that the late Sir Robert Peel came down one year and asked for a million of money for the dockyards, to put them in a more efficient state?—Yes; but if your Lordship looks at those returns, you will see that it went on increasing from one year to another, and now it is down again, in some establishments to less than it was before. Look at the increase of steam. In 1828 we had one steamer, we have now 200 odd, and 20 sail of the line we shall have at the end of the year, with the block-ships. Steam labour has increased in the yards, no doubt.

209. You stated, did you not, that you consider the efficiency and economy

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of the dockyards depended upon those arrangements as to promotion, in a great measure?—I think that efficiency has certainly a great deal to do with that; if men are not advanced for merit, it is impossible that the work can be properly carried on, and the workmen must suffer. The circular of 1847 states, that when a person is once in the dockyard he is to rise by his own merit.

210. Lord *Hotham.*] Can you tell the Committee the nature and extent of the pledge that you stated was exacted by Sir Francis Baring from every one appointed or promoted in the dockyards?—I think it will be found, and Sir Francis Baring can produce the document, if necessary, that every officer of any rank, from the superintendent down, made a pledge that he would not meddle in any way with politics, before Sir Francis Baring confirmed his appointment.

211. Is it within your knowledge that orders were sent to several superintendents to see to the faithful observance of those pledges?—That the faithful observance of the circular of 1847 should be carried out.

212. But the pledge went somewhat beyond the circular of 1847, did it not? It states there, "for merit."

213. But is that entire absence from political interference?—His letter stated that, but there was no general order.

214. You stated that Sir Francis Baring exacted a pledge from every person whom he appointed in the dockyard; my question was, whether the superintendents of the several dockyards received orders from Sir Francis Baring to see that those pledges were faithfully observed?—I am not aware of any order; that information I gained from the superintendents themselves.

215. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated that, on the 22d of November last, you received a note from Mr. Stafford respecting the notice in question from Admiral Berkeley, and Mr. Stafford then requested to know what it meant, and you referred him to copies of the letters in Whitehall?—I did.

216. And I think you stated in evidence before the Chatham Election Committee, that you were very much surprised at the answer which was given to the question, because you believed your tender of resignation was before the Board, and that you were not disabused of that impression till you saw the answer, which appeared in the public papers in reply to Admiral Berkeley's question and the question put by Sir George Pechell?—Yes, the first time; I was not aware that it had not been brought before the Board until Admiral Hyde Parker informed me on the 29th of November.

217. Then on the 25th of November you say that you said to Mr. Stafford, "You know that I tendered my resignation," and that you had written to the Duke of Northumberland with reference to the appointments and promotions in the dockyard; are you quite sure that you made use of those words?—Yes; that I had tendered my resignation, and that I had addressed a letter to the First Lord, the Duke of Northumberland; my letter had reference to the promotions in the dockyard; and I said I had addressed a letter.

218. Did you state this: "You know I tendered my resignation, and wrote to the Duke of Northumberland"?—Yes.

219. It appears from your evidence, that Admiral Hyde Parker, Mr. Stafford, and yourself, were together when you discussed the question of your tendering your resignation?—Yes.

220. Admiral Hyde Parker had the letter in his hand in which you tendered your resignation?—Yes.

221. Was it open, or was it closed?—It was closed up.

222. But was that letter alluded to in such a way that the contents of that document were made the subject of conversation?—No; not beyond what I have stated, that I had tendered my resignation.

223. Are you quite certain that it was the letter of resignation that Admiral Hyde Parker held in his hand?—Quite.

224. How do you know that?—I saw the address in my own writing.

225. You were advised by Admiral Parker to see the First Lord?—That was before; that was in November.

226. The 28th of November?—The 29th of November.

227. You saw his Grace, did you?—Yes.

228. Will you state, as precisely as you can, what took place at the interview which you had with the Duke of Northumberland, and whether anybody was present when you first entered the room, and saw the Duke?—There was only a messenger

messenger present, who opened the door; nobody else, when I alluded to my letter of resignation.

229. How did the conversation commence?—I said that I had come to speak to his Grace about copies of the letters which I had been ordered to furnish; that one was a letter tendering my resignation, and the other was a letter that I had addressed to him; and he immediately said, as to my tender of resignation, that he had never seen it, or heard of it; and he appeared excessively annoyed at the thing being named.

230. He appeared not to have any knowledge of the existence of such a document?—Yes, he repeated this; and then I told his Grace that I held in my hand a copy of that letter, and he repeated if he had known it, if that letter had been given to him, he should immediately have taken it to Lord Derby. His Grace repeated the thing over again; I felt hurt at being treated in that way, and I said I had a copy of that letter in my hand, and he might make use of it I think just at that time Admiral Hyde Parker entered the room, and I immediately appealed to him; and I said that I had been led to believe that my letter had been brought forward, and I was surprised to hear his Grace say that he knew nothing about it, and had never seen it; upon which Admiral Parker reminded his Grace that he had placed the letter in his hands.

231. When you say that you were led to believe that this letter had been brought under the notice of his Grace, by whom was that?—By Admiral Hyde Parker; he took the letter from me to bring it before the Board; I supposed the question was brought before the Board, and that question was decided upon. I naturally concluded that my letter was brought before the Board.

232. Were you informed that it was taken before the Board?—I was led to believe that; I thought that because Admiral Hyde Parker stated that he had brought it forward.

233. When Admiral Hyde Parker called his Grace's attention to what he believed to be the fact, namely, that the letter had been brought before his Grace, what took place?—I left the room almost immediately.

234. And left Admiral Parker and the Duke together?—Yes.

235. That was all that took place during that interview with his Grace, was it?—That was all.

236. *Chairman.*] You stated, did you not, that in that interview you referred only to your letter to Mr. Stafford, and that you did not again refer to the letter that you had written to the Duke of Northumberland?—No, it was not at all named; I felt hurt, and I left the room.

237. Did you state that you had at any time had any conversation with the Duke of Northumberland respecting the subject-matter of your letter of the 10th of May?—Never, not a word, I never had any reply; I never heard a word upon the subject.

238. You had no knowledge whether the Duke had ever seen your letter?—Further than that Captain Pelham told me that he had put it into the Duke's hands.

239. You received no reply?—No.

240. You stated that on the 29th of November you saw Mr. Stafford, who then stated to you that he had a mode of settling this matter between you, and requested you not to send in copies of the letters?—Yes, I did.

241. I did not clearly understand what was the mode in which the matter was to be settled?—That I was not to enclose copies to the Board, copies of my letters that had been called for.

242. Were you to make a return of nil, or what?—I did not for a moment entertain Mr. Stafford's proposal, and the subject never went beyond that; the letter I addressed afterwards was merely alluding to the dates, and whom they were addressed to.

243. Did you understand exactly what was the nature of the proposal that Mr. Stafford made to you?—Only that I was to reply to the letter without enclosing the copies.

244. The reply to the letter would be that the copies were not to be found?—That was not stated; the same proposal was made afterwards by Captain Milne, who came to me at Somerset House after I left the Admiralty, with the same request from Mr. Stafford.

245. As you are accustomed to make returns of documents, when a document is moved for, do not you, when the order is sent to your office, either give it,

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it, or state that there is no such document if there is not such a one?—Certainly.

246. Is there any other course between the two?—I should say not.

247. There is no other course but either to say there is not such a document, or to give it?—No.

248. If the department has not objected to giving it in Parliament?—Quite so.

249. Sir *B. Hall.*] The conversation which you had with Mr. Stafford was in the latter end of the month of November 1852?—Yes.

250. And then it was intimated to you, that it would be desirable not to send copies of those two letters, namely, that of the 21st of April and the 10th of May, in answer to the letter which had been sent to you by Mr. Stafford?—Yes.

251. It appears by the Parliamentary Paper, that the order was made by the House of Commons on the 14th of March 1853, several months after you had that conversation?—Yes.

252. And that a copy of that Order was sent to you, signed by Mr. Hay, for the Secretary?—Yes.

253. Was it in answer to that communication, which appears by the Parliamentary Paper, No. 272, that you sent in the copies of the letters?—It was. If I may be allowed to explain, those letters were called for when I was examined before the Chatham Election Committee, and at that time they were in my great coat pocket. I could not find them. I must beg to be allowed to correct a statement that was made in the House of Commons, that Sir James Graham advised me to go down the second day, and to put in those letters. I can only say I never saw Sir James Graham, and he never advised me to do anything of the kind. I went down with the feeling that there was a wrong impression that when those letters were asked for, I did not produce them, and that the letters were against me, and with that I felt it right to submit them to the Committee for their decision.

254. *Chairman.*] As I understand you, although you were surprised on the 23d of November, or on the 28th, to see that Mr. Stafford had replied that there was no correspondence, you did not then send copies to the Admiralty?—No, I did not, because I placed in Mr. Stafford's hands, on the 29th of November, a copy of those two letters, which were withdrawn at the request of Mr. Stafford, who informed me that Captain Milne had understood that I had promised to withhold them; and when I saw Captain Milne afterwards, he said that it was no use raking up a thing that had passed for some time, and that I had much better not enclose copies; and it was upon that advice, and feeling that I did not wish the thing to go further, that I retained them. I was certainly in error in not enclosing the copies, but it was done from a feeling that the business should not go further.

255. Mr. *Beckett.*] Were those copies returned to you that you put into Mr. Stafford's hands?—Yes, he gave them back into my hands, and I now will produce them; these are the copies (*producing the same*).

256. They were returned to you at the time?—Yes.

257. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You placed those copies in Mr. Stafford's hands, and he said to you that there was no use in sending them to be read by all the clerks in the office, and he returned them to you?—Yes; I saw Captain Milne afterwards, and he said I had much better not send the copies in, as it was no use raking the thing up again.

Walter Eden, Esq., called in; and Examined.

W. Eden, Esq.

258. *Chairman.*] YOU are in the office of Sir Baldwin Walker, at Somerset House, are you not?—Yes.

259. How long have you been there?—Since the year 1832.

260. Were you present at any conversation that took place between Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Grant?—Yes, I was.

261. When was that conversation?—It took place, I think, on one of the last days of March 1852; I am not sure of the exact day; I entered Sir Baldwin Walker's room, as is my practice constantly to do, and found a gentleman with him, who I have since found to be Mr. Grant, and I there heard a portion of the conversation which was taking place between them; and Sir Baldwin said in my presence to Mr. Grant, who was the bearer of a message from Mr. Stafford respecting some promotions in Devonport dockyard, that he could not for a moment

moment entertain the proposition made to him, as during the period he had been in office, upwards of four years, he had never in any way been influenced by political motives in making his submissions with respect to promotions in the dockyards, and he would not commence jobbing for Mr. Stafford, or any one else, requesting at the same time that a proposition of that nature might never be again named to him, as he never went to the right or to the left, or words to that effect.

262. You have a clear recollection of that conversation?—Yes, a perfect recollection.

263. Are you the chief clerk?—No; I am the third clerk in the department of the Surveyor of the Navy.

264. Do you act as secretary to Sir Baldwin Walker?—I am a clerk attached to the Surveyor of the Navy, a clerk whose duty it is to attend upon him.

265. Is it a part of your business to put up the papers in a box to go to the Admiralty?—It is not immediately my duty, but it is done in the room which I superintend; it is under my directions, or partly under my directions, under the chief clerk's.

266. You have heard the evidence here of Sir Baldwin Walker, have you not?—Yes.

267. You have heard a statement respecting the correspondence on the subject of promotions, which could not be found?—Yes, I heard that.

268. And which he stated was sent in a box from Somerset House to the Admiralty?—Yes.

269. Do you remember these circumstances?—I remember the documents well, and I have no doubt at all. I do not know that I could recollect immediately whether they were put into the box, but I have not the smallest doubt they were; all documents, unless they are too large, are invariably put into the box, and locked, and sent down to Whitehall, where a duplicate key opens it.

270. You have been in that office since 1832?—Yes, since September 1832.

271. Has it happened, in your experience there, that papers and documents have been lost?—I have no recollection of such a thing.

272. It is, so far as your experience goes, a very unusual thing that any documents should be lost in the way those documents were lost?—I should say it is unusual; I do not recollect any documents that we have sent for to Whitehall not having been produced; sometimes there has been a difficulty in obtaining them.

273. The papers are generally taken care of, and there is very little loss of documents in that department of the Admiralty?—Very little that I am aware of.

Vice-Admiral Sir *Hyde Parker*; Examined.

274. *Chairman.*] YOU have heard the evidence that has been given by Sir Baldwin Walker, have you not?—Yes, I have.

275. He stated, that on the 21st of April, he read to you his letter, I think, in which he tendered his resignation to the Admiralty?—He did.

276. Did he give that letter to you?—He did.

277. When you took it, did you take it conditionally to be used by you according to your discretion, or did you take it as an absolute tender of resignation?—I told him when he gave it to me, that I should take it to the Duke of Northumberland before it came to the Board.

278. By that, you meant to leave some means of avoiding the enforcement of the letter?—I thought it my duty to take it to the First Lord first, that he might give me directions, or do with it as he pleased.

279. Did Sir Baldwin Walker approve of that course?—He did not make any objection; he did not say anything.

280. Did you take it to the Duke of Northumberland?—Yes, I did, on the same day.

281. On the 21st?—I cannot exactly call to mind the date.

282. Did you give it into his hands?—I did.

283. Was it an open letter?—I took it out of the cover and gave it to him; I had read it myself first.

284. Did you read it in his presence?—No; I had read it when Sir Baldwin Walker

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Walker gave it to me, but I gave it to his Grace and told him what the purport of the letter was.

285. Sir Baldwin Walker stated, that he read the letter to you himself in the presence of Captain Milne?—He did, but I do not recollect Captain Milne being in the room when he read it to me; I think he might have been present when Sir Baldwin Walker came into the room; I do not think he was present when Sir Baldwin Walker read the letter to me.

286. A day or two after, Sir Baldwin Walker was sent for to the Admiralty, as the Committee have been informed, and the subject of his letter was discussed in Mr. Stafford's room?—No; it was discussed in my office.

287. Was Mr. Stafford present then?—He was. I was requested by the Duke of Northumberland to see Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Stafford upon that letter, and endeavour to make peace, and to settle it.

288. Accordingly you saw them?—Yes, both in my office.

289. Was it your impression that you had succeeded in making peace in the matter?—It was my impression that the letter was done away with by that circular; a memorandum was agreed to in my office; the principle of it was inserted in the circular, I think, of the 26th of April.

290. That circular was agreed to in your office on that occasion?—Yes; I think the principle and purport of it.

291. It appeared to you to satisfy Sir Baldwin Walker, as far as you could observe?—I conceived that. I recollect Mr. Stafford saying, that of course no accusation was meant, by the former circular, upon Sir Baldwin Walker's character whatever; and as that was not dissented from, I considered that the business respecting the letter of his resignation was settled.

292. Do you know what became of that letter?—I destroyed the letter, conceiving that the business was finished with regard to it.

293. After you had taken the letter to the Duke of Northumberland he gave it back to you?—I do not think he did give it back to me the same day.

294. But he gave it back to you another day?—Yes, and requested me to endeavour to settle it between Mr. Stafford and Sir Baldwin Walker.

295. You had the letter in your hand when Mr. Stafford and Sir Baldwin Walker met in your room?—I had; I had it out of the cover in my hand.

296. You did not read the letter upon that occasion?—No.

297. But the purport was made the subject of conversation?—Yes, it was; it was a very warm conversation, partly between Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Stafford, upon that occasion.

298. Was that letter destroyed by you directly or after?—It was destroyed by me a day or two afterwards. I conceived that that letter would be of no more use, and therefore I destroyed it.

299. It never was submitted to the Board in any way?—It never was.

300. Having made peace, as you thought, at this meeting, did you afterwards state the substance of what had passed at the Board of Admiralty?—No, I did not.

301. Did you inform the Duke of Northumberland, that you had succeeded, as you believed?—I think I might have done so; most probably.

302. But it was not mentioned at the Board of Admiralty?—No, it was not.

303. Was there any conversation at the Board, upon the subject of this resignation?—I think not.

304. Have you seen the letter which Mr. Stafford wrote to Sir Baldwin Walker in the first instance?—No.

305. You were not aware of that letter?—No.

306. Had you heard that there were complaints as to the promotions in the dockyard?—Certainly I had heard so, from the Surveyor informing me so.

307. Had you heard from any other source that there were complaints, that the promotions made, not through the intervention of the Surveyor, had created dissatisfaction?—Yes, I had.

308. From whom had you heard those complaints?—Captain Richards, in Chatham dockyard, the superintendent of the dockyard.

309. He had complained to you?—Yes.

310. Will you state the nature of that complaint?—I think he complained that people were promoted that ought not to be, and in despite of his recommendation.

311. He complained that persons were promoted who ought not to be?—Yes, contrary to his recommendation.

312. Was that complaint, a complaint in regard to the exercise of the power of the Surveyor?—No.

313. Was any complaint made at the Admiralty in regard to the mode of making promotions, while those promotions passed through the hands of the Surveyor?—Never that I know of.

314. You are not aware of any complaint having been made, that the Surveyor of the Navy used his patronage for any political purpose?—Never.

315. To the best of your belief, was it or was it not the case, that the promotions that passed through the hands of the Surveyor had any political favour in them?—Certainly not; quite the contrary.

316. Then the complaint of Captain Richards, the superintendent of Chatham dockyard, was made after the time when the circular of the 27th of April had been issued?—When the circular, I think, was done away with, the circular of 1847 addressed to the dockyards by Sir Henry Ward.

317. When that circular had been interfered with, then Captain Richards complained of the alteration; did he not?—Certainly, he complained of the alteration.

318. How many years have you been at the Board of Admiralty?—Not quite two years; I came in with the Duke of Northumberland.

319. Had you not been at the Admiralty ever before?—Never.

320. Will you state more specifically the nature of the complaints that Captain Richards made to you?—I really cannot exactly call to mind the particular complaint; but I recollect his stating that he had represented that a man was unfit for a situation; but he was censured for having done so, and ordered to retain the man in the yard; but I consider that to be the purport of it. I may have had other communications, but I was constantly in the habit of seeing all the officers, and I cannot exactly now call to mind the particular conversations I had with him.

321. You do not recollect any conversations with any other superintendent of the yard, excepting with Captain Richards, the superintendent?—No, I cannot positively say so.

322. Do you remember Sir Baldwin Walker reading to you a letter which he wrote to the Duke of Northumberland on the 10th of May 1852?—I think Sir Baldwin Walker brought a letter in his hand to me, but I cannot say that he read it to me. I think he stated he was going to deliver it to the Duke of Northumberland, but I am almost positive that it was not read to me. He might have mentioned what the letter contained.

323. Did you ever see that letter afterwards?—Never.

324. Did the Duke of Northumberland hold any conversation with you respecting that letter?—I do not think he did.

325. Did you state to the Duke of Northumberland your opinion regarding the issue of the circular of the 19th April, the circular which cancelled the regulations made by Sir Henry Ward?—I was ignorant of that circular for some time; it must have been some time after it was issued that I knew that it ever had been issued, because it was not issued from the Board, therefore I was not well aware of it.

326. You were not aware of its being issued till some time after it had been issued?—No, I think I was told so.

327. Can you tell this Committee when you were first aware that it had been issued?—Some little time after, I think I was told so by the Surveyor.

328. Having been told that the Secretary to the Admiralty had issued a circular that you, as a Lord of the Admiralty, were not aware of, did you bring that question under the consideration either of the First Lord or of the Board?—I think I mentioned it to the First Lord.

329. Was not it a very grave matter for the Secretary of the Admiralty to issue a circular without the cognizance of the Board of Admiralty?—I considered it so, certainly.

330. Considering it a very grave matter, cannot you remember whether or not you brought it under the consideration of the Lords of the Admiralty?—No, I did not bring it before the Board; I had remonstrated upon it repeatedly to the First Lord.

331. Are the Committee to understand that your remonstrance was not made

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to the Board, but that it was made to the First Lord?—It was. The Committee will allow me to say, at the same time, that the First Lord's opinion was perfectly with my own on the subject.

332. Then I am right, I suppose, in assuming that the First Lord also disapproved of the course taken by the Secretary?—I should think so; indeed, I am pretty well sure of it.

333. Can you tell the Committee when you first made this remonstrance to the First Lord, and when you received the assurance that his opinion coincided with your own?—I am quite sure the First Lord lamented it having taken place, and the impropriety of it, as well as myself.

334. You do not remember whether it was before the 10th of May, or afterwards?—It must have been after it was done, of course.

335. Was it shortly after it was done?—I think it must have been; my opinion was perfectly well known.

336. Was it before the second circular was issued which took off from the Surveyor of the Navy any imputation that the first circular might appear to throw out against him?—No, that second circular was issued in consequence of the letter containing his resignation; that caused that second circular.

337. It was in consequence of the letter tendering his resignation?—Certainly.

338. Had you, before that second circular was issued, remonstrated against the issue of the first circular?—I think I had.

339. When the circular was brought to your notice that had been issued by the Secretary of the Admiralty, did you ask to see it?—No, I do not think I did, because I was told what it was.

340. You did not inquire for the original document?—No, I did not.

341. Is it usual for the Secretary of the Admiralty to issue circulars without any minute having been made at the Board, or any order having been given?—I should think quite the contrary; I should consider it to be most irregular.

342. With regard to a circular to be sent out from the Admiralty to the dockyards, would it not be entered as a minute at a meeting of the Board?—Certainly.

343. That is the regular form?—Yes, everything is minuted at the Board that they give their decision upon.

344. And without such a minute, do you conceive that the Secretary of the Admiralty is authorised to issue a circular?—Certainly not.

345. Not having seen the circular in the first instance, was not the circular afterwards confirmed at the Board?—What circular?

346. Mr. Stafford's circular to the dockyards, cancelling the system that had been established by Sir Henry Ward?—No, it was never brought before the Board at all.

347. Never?—No.

348. It was never confirmed by the Board?—Never.

349. In the first instance no minute was made, and they never afterwards confirmed it at the Board?—Never, that I am aware of.

350. Who enters the minutes at the Board?—A secretary; either the first or the second secretary.

351. During that time, in 1852, was it the first or the second secretary that usually entered the minutes made at the Board?—It was sometimes one and sometimes the other.

352. Who is the second secretary?—Captain Hamilton.

353. If there was a minute made, either passing a circular or a minute confirming it, it must be in the cognisance either of Mr. Stafford or of Captain Hamilton?—Certainly.

354. The minute-book would of course show that?—Certainly.

355. Is that minute-book here?—No.

356. Sir *B. Hall.*] Have you in your hand a copy of the circular of the 19th of April 1852?—Yes, I have.

357. And that circular cancels the circular of 1849, and affects the circular of 1847?—As far as the Surveyor goes, I have certainly been told that I was there. I really do not recollect that I was there then.

358. You have in your hand the circular of the 19th of April 1852, have you not?—Yes.

359. It has been stated that that circular was placed in the ordinary minute-book, and not in the General Board minute-book; but that on the 26th of April it was re-affirmed by a General Board minute, thereby receiving as it were a double

double guarantee, and that the members of the Board who were present when the circular was issued, that is the circular of the 19th of April 1852, which you have read, were the Duke of Northumberland, Admiral Parker, Sir Thomas Herbert, Captain Duncombe, and Captain Milne: have you any recollection of that circular of the 19th of April being brought before the Board at which you were stated to have been present?—I have not; none whatever.

360. Have you any recollection of its being affirmed by a General Board Minute on the 26th of April, when you were stated to be present?—I cannot say so.

361. *Chairman.*] I wish to call your attention to the next paper, namely, the circular of the 26th of April, which commences by saying, "Misconstruction having arisen with reference to their Lordships' circular issued on the 19th instant;" you were present when this second circular was issued, were you not?—This second circular of the 26th of April 1852?

362. Yes?—The purport of that was made in my room, when Mr. Stafford and Sir Baldwin Walker were present, and it was brought to the Board afterwards, and issued.

363. You, as a Lord of the Admiralty, agreeing to the circular of the 26th of April, sanctioned thereby the issuing of the circular on the 19th instant, did you not?—This is not exactly referring to the one of the 19th; I refer to the one doing away with the circular of 1847.

364. "Misconstruction having arisen with reference to their Lordships' circular issued on the 19th instant;" when you sanction the circular of the 26th of April, did you not indirectly sanction the issuing of the circular of the 19th?—This circular of the 26th was issued entirely in consequence of the letter of resignation of the Surveyor.

365. Does not that circular itself adopt the former circular as having been issued by their Lordships?—I have no recollection of the former circular being issued, nor do I think that I ever agreed to the former circular.

366. You allowed this circular to pass, embodying in it a sanction of the former one?—Yes, it was; that was what the Surveyor felt aggrieved at; I certainly did; it was what the Surveyor considered his character was called in question by.

367. According to your present explanation this circular ought to have commenced, "Misconstruction having arisen with reference to the circular issued by the Secretary to the Admiralty"?—Yes.

368. To be strictly correct with your present evidence, ought it not?—Yes, it ought; because it was entirely issued upon that circular, that Sir Baldwin Walker felt aggrieved, and in consequence he sent in his letter of resignation.

369. When this circular was under consideration at the Board of Admiralty, was Sir Baldwin Walker's resignation made the subject of consideration?—It must have been, because this is brought forward afterwards; it must have been of course; and I must have been present, I presume, but I have no recollection of it.

370. It appears to you now, looking at that circular, that some reason must have been given for issuing that circular?—Certainly; I have not seen this circular; those words were agreed to in my room, or the purport of it.

371. When a minute is agreed to at the Board of Admiralty, who signs the minute?—The Secretary.

372. Who was then present?—Yes.

373. And he puts at the head of the proceedings, who are present when it is agreed to?—I do not know that.

374. Do you know whether the names of those present at the Board were all put down?—That I cannot answer; I am not aware of that.

375. Are the Committee to understand you, from your evidence, to intimate that this circular, which I will now read to you, was issued without your knowledge or approval? "Admiralty, 19 April 1852. With reference to their Lordships' order of the 26th of September 1849, which directs that all reports and correspondence on the subject of vacancies, promotion, or changes of the officers or workmen of the dockyard shall be forwarded through the Surveyor's Department, I am to acquaint you that the order in question is to be considered as cancelled, and that in future such reports and correspondence are to be transmitted direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty. By command of their Lordships. (signed) *Augustus Stafford.*" So far as I understand your evidence, it means

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means that that circular, which is stated to be "By command of their Lordships," was issued without your order or cognisance?—I believe that to be so.

376. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You stated, did you not, that the circular of the 26th of April was issued in consequence of Sir Baldwin Walker's resignation?—I believe the purport to be in consequence of that letter, and the meeting of Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Stafford in my room, as I stated before this of the 26th of April. I took it to have arisen from that letter.

377. From that letter, which letter however was never formally brought before the Board?—Never; it was only given to me, and I said that I should deliver it to the Duke of Northumberland, as I considered I was in duty bound to do so, before anything of importance of that kind was brought before the Board, which I am usually in the habit of doing.

378. But the fact that Sir Baldwin Walker had tendered his resignation must have been known to the Board and to the Secretary?—I presume so.

379. Because, if it was a matter of discussion, and if it led to this circular, it must, though not in an official shape, perhaps, have been known to the Board?—I presume it was.

380. *Chairman.*] You have stated that you disapproved of Mr. Stafford's circular, and that the First Lord of the Admiralty concurred in your opinion; did you not at any time consider the propriety of cancelling Mr. Stafford's circular?—It is impossible for me to state, nor can I state to the Committee, the private conversations that have passed between me and the First Lord.

381. I do not wish to press you upon any point as to any private conversation that took place between you and the First Lord, but you have said enough to indicate to this Committee that you did remonstrate against the maintenance of that circular, as I understood it; if I am wrong in that, will you correct me?—I am positive that I expressed my dissatisfaction at the circumstance; I cannot state particularly.

382. Sir Baldwin Walker read a letter of yours on the 25th of August, commenting upon certain appointments made in the dockyards; did you hear him read part of that letter?—Yes; it was a private letter to him.

383. Did you give Sir Baldwin Walker permission to use that letter; he was understood to say, that he had your permission to use it here?—I think Sir Baldwin Walker mistook me upon that letter; there was another letter. It is quite my opinion (and I am not afraid of disguising my opinion), I do not think I gave Sir Baldwin Walker permission to bring it before the Committee; it was another letter, and I think he is mistaken.

384. You gave him permission to bring another letter before this Committee?—Yes; with reference to another point, with regard to which he has not been examined.

385. Since you say that you are perfectly ready to abide by your opinion contained in the letter of the 25th of August, that letter shows that you were then dissatisfied with the appointments and promotions going on in the dockyards?—Yes.

386. Did it appear to you that political influence was interfering with the proper course of promotion in the dockyards?—In a great degree.

387. Have you ever been a superintendent of a dockyard?—Yes, I have; of Portsmouth Dockyard.

388. In what years were you superintendent?—I left it, I think, the latter end of 1847. That circular of 1847 was submitted to me by Lord Auckland.

389. Did you approve of it?—Highly.

390. You were not in command of the dockyard at the time?—No, I left it in 1847; I was there five years.

391. You left it in 1847?—The end of 1847.

392. You had only an opportunity for a short time to witness the effect of that circular?—Yes; I know that it began a few months before I left the dockyard; it was put in force then.

393. Your opinion was favourable to that circular, was it not?—Most decidedly.

394. Both before it was issued, and from your experience of its working afterwards?—Yes; I thought it highly necessary.

395. You thought it highly necessary, with a view to the efficiency and economy of the dockyards?—Most decidedly.

396. Approving of the circular of 1847, do you approve or disapprove of the circular

circular of 1849, namely, the circular that says, that all communications shall pass through the Surveyor of the Admiralty?—I approve of it.

397. That was going, as I understand you, a step further than the circular of 1847?—It was to carry it out efficiently.

398. Then, are the Committee to understand that, without the circular of 1849, you think it was not sufficiently carried out; not stringent enough?—It was not, and I considered it could not be too stringent.

399. I ask you whether, as the Committee have now heard, that that arrangement of 1849 has been sanctioned by an Order in Council?—I do not think it was by an Order in Council.

400. But, as the Committee understand it, lately it has been sanctioned by an Order in Council?—Yes.

401. It had been previously sanctioned, I presume, by the Board of Admiralty?—Certainly.

402. Was the propriety of it considered at the Board of Admiralty before it was sanctioned by an Order in Council?—Certainly.

403. You were present, and concurred in that step?—I was, and I most decidedly concurred in it.

404. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated that you had some private conversations with the First Lord of the Admiralty in reference to Mr. Stafford's circular; I am not going to ask you questions with regard to any private conversation with the First Lord, but I wish to ask you whether you had any conversation with the other Lords, and remonstrated against the issue of that circular by Mr. Stafford?—I really do not know; I cannot answer that question; I may have done so, or I may not.

405. Did you ever express any disapproval of the issue of Mr. Stafford's circular to the Board?—Often; I have expressed my opinion upon that several times with different people.

406. Did you ever speak to Mr. Stafford on the subject?—I think Mr. Stafford knew my opinion very well.

407. Did you ever speak to Mr. Stafford upon the subject?—No, I did not think it my duty to speak to Mr. Stafford on the subject.

408. Have you no recollection of Mr. Stafford's circular being brought before the Board before it was issued?—I have not.

409. *Chairman.*] In regard to your letter of the 25th of August, which comments in somewhat strong terms upon the system under which the appointments were made, had you then visited the dockyards, or seen the superintendents, which had led you to form that decided opinion?—I had seen some of them, and corresponded with others.

410. Did that lead you to form that strong opinion in regard to the mode in which promotions were then made?—Yes.

411. Can you state what superintendents of the different yards you have communicated with?—Principally the superintendents of Devonport, Woolwich, and Chatham, but, of course, I cannot now recollect the purport of those letters; they were private letters. In my situation I must have written a great many upon different subjects.

412. Did it appear to you that the superintendents of the dockyards had any political bias one way or the other in themselves?—Not that I know.

413. You have not perceived it?—No; I cannot say that I have.

414. You have not, since the time you have been in the Admiralty, seen in the recommendations that came up from the dockyards, anything to lead you to think that the superintendents had any particular bias?—No; they would not come to me; they do not come to my office, and they are not brought before me; that is not a part of the Surveyor's duty that comes to me, except the principal promotions; the promotions in the dockyard, for instance, like any officer being promoted, or a master of trade, would; they come to me, or any principal officer of the dockyard; that would come to me.

415. During the time you have been at the Admiralty, have you seen anything in the recommendations with regard to persons that came from the superintendents that appeared to be dictated by any political bias?—No; because the superintendent's recommendations would not come to me.

416. Who recommends the principal persons in the dockyards?—That would come by letter from the Surveyor, and come to me.

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417. Do you think that the Surveyor of the Navy had any particular bias in making any of his recommendations?—None whatever.

418. You acquit him thoroughly of all imputation of that kind?—I am quite positive of it.

419. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you recollect any circumstance about the appointment to the master smith, at the Portsmouth Dockyard, from the private trade?—Perfectly.

420. Was it decided by the Lords of the Admiralty that a person should be taken from the private trade to go to the Portsmouth Dockyard?—It was a recommendation of Sir Francis Baring's that a man should be employed, one who had been very successful as master smith at the Woolwich Dockyard.

421. By the Parliamentary Paper, No. 271, it appears that the Surveyor of the Navy wrote a letter on the 9th of September 1852, in which he refers to a decision of their Lordships, that an experienced master smith should be appointed to the Portsmouth Dockyard from the private trade; and it is subsequently stated that a communication was made by yourself to Sir Baldwin Walker, stating the desire of the Lords of the Admiralty that a person should be taken from the private trade to go to Portsmouth Dockyard; do you recollect that circumstance?—The recommendation came from Sir Baldwin Walker to me, mentioning the name of Mr. Wells as one whom he had approved of, to be sent forward to the Admiralty, in order to be sent for six months on probation, and I approved of it most highly, because, as it was a new smithery, as I stated, to Portsmouth Dockyard, and the master smith having been superannuated, and the foreman having been superannuated, it was a good opportunity to place a man from the private trade at the head of that dockyard, as I knew myself, from circumstances, that it wanted remodelling altogether.

422. Do you recollect signing any minute approving of the submission of the Surveyor of the Navy in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells?—I do.

423. Was it a minute of the Board, or a minute signed by yourself?—A minute signed by me.

424. What became of that minute?—I do not know.

425. Was it given by you to any clerk?—No; it was sent in the usual way, through my office, to be forwarded.

426. Captain Hamilton was the acting Secretary at that time, was he not?—Yes.

427. Whose duty is it to receive those minutes of appointments, which may bear the signature of the First Naval Lord?—It goes to the Secretary, and Captain Hamilton was Secretary at the time.

428. You have every reason to believe that this minute of approval was conveyed in the usual way to the Secretary?—Certainly, because he sent a memorandum to the Surveyor in consequence of that minute. It says: "Minute of the 10th of September 1852. My Lords having been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard."

429. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that, in the case of a minute making an appointment on probation, that minute is not made by the Board, but made by the First Naval Lord?—Yes, to this appointment of master smith.

430. Now, whenever an appointment was confirmed, would there be a minute made by the Board, or might it equally be made by the First Naval Lord?—It might be made by the First Naval Lord with the Surveyor.

431. You were yourself for some time superintendent of the Portsmouth Dockyard, were you not?—Yes.

432. And it was partly then, from your own experience, that you considered that bringing a person from a private yard would there be an advantage?—Quite so, from what I had seen of the great improvement in the smithery at Woolwich.

433. When you signed the minute approving of Mr. Wells's probation for six months at Portsmouth, did you make any inquiries respecting his qualifications?—He was reported to me by the Surveyor as having been examined at Somerset House; and on inquiry about him, I found him to be a very fit person to fill that situation.

434. What would be his particular duties as head of the smithery?—To entirely conduct the whole of it, the whole arrangement and management of the work.

435. Would he superintend the machinery, Nasmyth's hammer, and such things?—That is in the blacksmith's shop; a part of it.

436. That would be part of his duty?—Yes, a great part of his duty, in working up the old iron by Nasmyth's hammer, and using it likewise for all heavy work besides.

437. Would the making of anchors be a part of his duty?—Yes.

438. Then he ought to be well acquainted with it?—It is the same as all other large work; he must be well acquainted with it.

439. Sir *B. Hall.*] You have stated that the letter, a portion of which has been read in this room to-day by Sir Baldwin Walker, was not authorised by you to be read; but you gave him another letter which you authorised him to read?—Yes; that letter was respecting the appointment of master smith.

440. The letter which you authorised him to read was a letter respecting the appointment of master smith?—Yes; because I was absent on leave afterwards.

441. The Committee understood from Sir Baldwin Walker that he had permission from you to read that letter, a portion of which he read to the Committee?—Sir Baldwin Walker must have been mistaken. Out of the two letters I gave him permission to read the other respecting the appointment of the master smith.——(Sir *B. Walker.*) Will the Committee permit me to state that I had three letters yesterday afternoon in my hand, and those three letters I read to Admiral Parker, and obtained his permission to read them before this Committee. That letter which I read just now is one, and I have two others. Admiral Berkeley was at the Admiralty, and I immediately informed him of it, and he said it was quite right, and he was ready to make a statement of the fact. I read the three letters distinctly.——(Admiral *Parker.*) You did not read them to me.

442. *Chairman.*] (To Sir *B. Walker.*) Your impression is, that you had authority to read the three letters to the Committee?—Yes.

443. Admiral Parker thinks that he only gave you permission to read one?—(Admiral *Parker.*) Sir Baldwin Walker may have misunderstood me. I gave him permission to read a letter at that time respecting the appointment of Wells, the blacksmith.——(Sir *Baldwin Walker.*) I read the three letters to Admiral Parker, and received his full permission to read them to the Committee. (*Two letters, dated the 8th and 19th of October* 1852, *were handed to Admiral Parker.*) ——(Admiral *Parker.*) I have no objection to these two letters being read. (*The two letters were handed to Sir Baldwin Walker.*)

444. *Chairman.*] (To Sir *Baldwin Walker.*) Perhaps you will read the letters, and state the dates?—One is dated the 8th of October, and the other the 19th of October.——(Admiral *Parker.*) I was absent on leave.——(Sir *Baldwin Walker.*) The first letter is in these terms: "I have written about Mr. Stafford having appointed the master smith from Chatham to Portsmouth quite contrary to your and my opinion, and also of your stating how injurious it is to the public service, and contrary to what Mr. Stafford had signed. It is really too bad, and everything is to be made subservient to party purposes." In the next letter, he says, "My dear Walker, I have written very strongly twice respecting the master smith being removed from Portsmouth by Mr. Stafford. You ought, I think, on these occasions, to write strongly and publicly to the Board, that it may remain as a record. I have been much annoyed on the whole subject, and have stated to the First Lord, that if I am to be held responsible for the speedy equipment of the fleet it is quite impossible for me to do so, if the appointments are made without any regard to the public service, but by private favour; so it is, and it is really quite disgusting."

445. *Chairman.*] (To Admiral *Parker.*) You knew in November, I suppose, of the notice in question, given by Admiral Berkeley?—Yes.

446. You were aware that on the 23d of November Mr. Stafford replied that there was no correspondence?—Yes.

447. Now, as you were aware of the correspondence that had taken place, did you bring that under the notice of Mr. Stafford, in order that the House of Commons might be rightly informed?—No, I did not; I did not say anything to Mr. Stafford on the subject. I think Mr. Stafford asked me whether I had the letter of resignation of Sir Baldwin Walker, and I told him that I had not it. I think that was the only conversation.

448. You did not then bring the subject in any way under the notice of the Board at that time?—No, I did not.

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449. Am I right in supposing that it was your impression, that after the Circular of the 26th of April, which removed all imputations from Sir Baldwin Walker, in destroying his letter, you destroyed the whole correspondence upon the subject?—I only destroyed his letter respecting his resignation; the letter contained nothing else. As Sir Baldwin Walker had had it proved to him that there was no imputation against his character, I thought the letter of resignation fell to the ground.

450. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] This conversation in your room, between Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Stafford, was on the 22d of April?—I really do not recollect the precise date of it.

451. It was the day subsequently to the 21st of April Sir Baldwin Walker wrote his letter of resignation?—I think it must have been on the 25th or 26th of April. I think it must have been by the circular.

452. I have it in this way, that on the 21st of April, Sir Baldwin Walker wrote his letter of resignation, and then that he read it to you, which you do not quite recollect?—He read that letter respecting his resignation. I am perfectly well aware that he read that.

453. On the following day he was not sent for?—I do not think it was the following day, certainly.

454. It was at that meeting, whatever the day was, that a draft of the report or circular was read by Mr. Stafford?—Yes, and disagreed to by Sir Baldwin Walker. There was a great deal of argument about it, before it was assented to. So far as I recollect, this circular, of the 26th of April 1852, was the purport of what was agreed to.

455. *Chairman.*] You had signed the approval of Mr. Wells for a temporary appointment?—I had.

456. On probation?—Yes, it is usual for men to be appointed six months on probation in any situation, at a reduced salary.

457. When you found that Cotsell was appointed to that place, did you remonstrate?—I did.

458. Did you remonstrate to the Board of Admiralty, and did you feel it your duty to do so?—I remonstrated with Mr. Stafford before I left town upon his proposition as to the appointment to Cotsell.

459. That was before the appointment was actually made?—Yes.

460. Did you bring that remonstrance to the notice of any one else besides Mr. Stafford?—Yes, I remonstrated with the head of the Board by letter.

461. Was that letter of a private or of an official character?—It was a private letter.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. *M. F. F. Berkeley*, a Member of the House; Examined.

Rear-Admiral Hon. *M. F. F. Berkeley*, M. P.

462. *Chairman.*] HAVE you heard that there is a difference of opinion as to the authority that Sir Baldwin Walker had of bringing three letters under the notice of this Committee?—Sir Baldwin Walker has since told me.

463. Sir Baldwin Walker imagined that he was authorised to read three letters to the Committee, and Admiral Parker's impression is, that he had sanctioned only the reading of one; are you cognisant of the facts, or were you present, and have you any knowledge upon the subject?—Sir Baldwin Walker took my advice whether or not he should apply to Admiral Parker for permission to read those letters, and I told him I thought that was the straightforward course, and he had better go to Admiral Parker and obtain his permission. I did not go with him myself into Admiral Parker's room, but Sir Baldwin Walker returned, having been absent a quarter of an hour, and stated that he had read extracts from the letters to Admiral Parker, and that the Admiral had given him permission to make use of them in any way he thought proper.

464. Your impression, which you derived from Sir Baldwin Walker, was, that he had leave to use these letters?—Certainly.——(Admiral *Parker.*) Will the Committee permit me to state, in order to make this clear, that I had in the first instance stated that Sir Baldwin Walker was at liberty to read them. I did not look at them; but, on second thoughts, I sent for Sir Baldwin Walker, and told him that I thought that the letter referring to the blacksmith was the only letter that it was necessary to read, or that he ought to read to the Committee; not that I care about any letter of mine being read.

[Admiral Parker withdrew.

The Minute-book of the Admiralty was produced.

Mr. *Nelson Houghton*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *N. Houghton.*

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465. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—A Clerk in the Admiralty, who keep the minute-books.

466. Will you refer to the 19th of April 1852, and inform the Committee what were the minutes entered on that day?—(*The Witness referred to the book.*)

467. Lord *Hotham.*] Do the minutes of each day contain the names of the Lords present?—Yes; that is the practice. There are two sets of minute-books kept; one is called the Board Minute-book, for minutes brought immediately before the Board, and the other is for General Minutes, made by the Secretaries or the Lords at different times through the course of the day. This is the Board Minute-book of Monday, the 19th of April 1852: "Present, Rear-Admiral Sir Hyde Parker; Captain the Honourable Arthur Duncombe; Captain Hamilton." Captain Hamilton was the assistant-secretary; and the only minute is as to the "Sphinx" and the "Contest." There are other minutes, called General Minutes.

468. In another book?—Yes, a separate book, called the General Minute-book.

469. Those minutes are made by whom?—Different Lords or Secretaries in the course of the day; it may be early or late, during the course of the day.

470. Any minute made, either by a Lord of the Admiralty, or a secretary, is entered in the General Minute-book?—If it is considered of sufficient importance; not all, for they would make a volume.

471. From that book, read a minute with regard to a circular to the dockyards?—It is put in on the following day, and this occurs sometimes when the minutes do not come to me direct; the marginal notation is here, "Vacancies and promotions in the yards to be reported direct to Secretary." "Admiralty, Tuesday, 20 April 1852. Acquaint the Surveyor that their Lordships' order of the 26th of September 1849, (respecting the superintendents reporting all vacancies, promotions or changes among the workmen, officers, &c., of the yard, through the department), is to be considered as cancelled, as my Lords desire that the system adopted previously should be reverted to. This will not interfere with the circular of November 29th, 1847." I should say, that this is an abstract made by myself in the General Minute-book. It has not been the practice to copy the minutes *verbatim*, but to give an abstract for the Board's information, who send for the papers if they wish for them.

472. You made an abstract of that which was sent to you on the following day?—Yes; on the 20th of April.

473. Lord *Hotham.*] In what shape was that sent to you?—I cannot say now, but the original papers are in the office, no doubt; my object is, to make them as concise as possible.

474. *Chairman.*] When would it be necessarily brought under the notice of the Board?—The minute-books each day go before the Board when they sit at half-past eleven or twelve o'clock; the minutes of the previous day are laid on the table before the secretary.

475. Then that minute having been so entered by you on the 20th of April, must on that day, or within a day or two, have been brought under the notice of the Board?—Yes, on the 21st.

476. Is it brought before the notice of the Board, by laying the book on the table, or is it read?—I do not know what the practice is, not being in the Board-room; I think not any common thing, but it may occasionally be the case.

477. When was the next Board-day; can you say by referring to the other book? (*The Witness referred to the book.*)—There must have been a Board-day on the 20th of April, when all their Lordships were present.

478. Sir *B. Hall.*] Is there any notice taken of it on that day?—No.

479. *Chairman.*] Who enters the minutes in that minute-book?—I keep them both.

480. Who takes note of what happens at the Board of Admiralty while it is going on?—One of the secretaries.

481. You copy from the secretaries' notes into that book?—Yes, the book is signed by the secretary on the following day; on this day he would sign the minutes of the previous day.

482. Does he take any note of the minutes in the General Minute-book having been brought under the notice of the Board?—They are laid on the table for that purpose, and he signs them.

Mr. *N. Houghton.*

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483. He does not in the Board Minute-book take any notice that they have considered the other minute-book?—I have never known such a practice; nothing appears to show that; notice might be taken.

484. Will you look at it?—I have looked through it, and nothing appears on the 20th.

485. Who signed it on the 20th?—Mr. Augustus Stafford.

486. Sir *B. Hall.*] When was the next?—The following Board-day was the 21st of April.

487. Is there any notice on that day of the circular?—I do not see any notice taken of it in the Board Minute-book.

488. When was the next Board meeting?—On April the 22d; Thursday.

489. Is there any notice of it there?—There is not any which appears on the book.

490. When was the next?—On April the 22d; a Somerset House Board was also held. They sit sometimes at Whitehall in the morning, and in the afternoon at Somerset House.

491. Is there notice of it?—Nothing appears in the book.

492. When was the next meeting?—Friday, the 23d of April.

493. Is there any notice of it there?—There does not anything appear. On that day I was absent, I presume, from illness, and the book was kept by another gentleman on that day; nothing appears about it.

494. Will you go on to the next Board meeting?—The 26th of April; then there is a general circular respecting dockyard promotions.

495. *Chairman.*] Is that circular entered at length?—I should think it was, from the manner of it.

496. Will you read it?—"Misconstruction having arisen in reference to the circular issued on the 19th instant, inform the superintendents of the Dock and Victualling Yards that no imputation is intended thereby to be cast upon the Surveyor of the Navy. The arrangements with regard to dockyard promotions, as laid down by their Lordships' circular of the 27th February 1847, will be strictly adhered to; and my Lords think it desirable to revert to the system then in force, of having all communications on the subject addressed, in the first instance, to this office."

497. Sir *B. Hall.*] To whom is it addressed?—It is a minute addressed, I presume, to the superintendents of the different yards.

498. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Who were the Lords present then?—The Duke of Northumberland, Rear-Admiral Hyde Parker, Captain Sir Thomas Herbert, Captain Duncombe, and Captain Milne.

499. *Chairman.*] Will you read again the first line of that minute?—"Misconstruction having arisen with reference to their Lordships' circular issued on the 19th instant."

500. Lord *Hotham.*] Will you go on?—"Inform the superintendents of the Dock and Victualling Yards that no imputation is intended thereby to be cast upon the Surveyor of the Navy."

501. *Chairman.*] That minute being made, in what way would that minute be communicated to the superintendents; would it be communicated in the exact words of the minute?—That is more than I can say; it rests with the gentleman at the head of the department, which is called the civil department, to execute it according to his discretion, on consulting the Secretary.

502. That minute having been made, to what department does it go?—From the chief clerk to the civil department; and the letters would be written there.

503. The head of the civil department could tell the Committee what was the usual form in which it was communicated?—Exactly so.

504. Lord *Hotham.*] Who is that?—Mr. Pennell.

[The Witness withdrew.

Charles Henry Pennell, Esq., called in; and Examined.

C. H. Pennell, Esq.

505. *Chairman.*] YOU are head in the Civil Department of the Admiralty, are you not?—Yes.

506. How long have you been there?—Six years.

507. When a minute is made by the Board, which is intended to be communicated to the superintendents of the dockyards, in what words is it usual to communicate

municate it?—Usually in the exact words of the minute, unless there be some valid cause for departing from them.

508. Usually in the exact words of the minute?—Yes.

509. Then it appears that a minute was passed on the 26th of April 1852, and that a letter was subsequently written to the superintendents of the dockyards, which is not in the exact words of the minute; can you explain to this Committee any cause for that difference between the letter and the words of the minute?—I was not aware till this moment that there was any.

510. Who wrote the letter, conveying the substance of that minute to the superintendents of the dockyards?—I believe it was written by a gentleman in my department; I have understood that the minute itself cannot be traced; it contains the initials of the gentleman who executed it; in its absence the matter is one of memory; but a gentleman in my department told me that he executed it.

511. Do you mean that the minute cannot be found?—I am *told* that it cannot be found; I was told so yesterday.

512. Have you seen this circular, No. 67 of the Parliamentary Papers?—Yes, I have seen it.

513. That circular, as printed here, refers to a circular issued by the Lords of the Admiralty on a previous day?—Yes.

514. The minute read just now referred to a previous circular, but it did not refer to it as the circular of the Lords of the Admiralty?—The term "Lordships" is introduced. The minute I observe runs, "Misconstructions having arisen in reference to the circular issued on the 19th instant." Whereas the letter stands, "with reference to their *Lordships*' circular issued."

515. You seem to affirm that the Lords of the Admiralty have issued a former circular, but the other does not introduce their Lordships' names?—All circulars from the Admiralty are their Lordships' circulars; no Member or Secretary can issue a circular. Letters or circulars go in the name of the Board, and it is to give to such letters or circulars a more formal character that the word "Lordships" is inserted.

516. All circulars are supposed to go from the Board?—Yes, from their Lordships.

517. Lord *Hotham*.] If you had received that minute, and had been directed to write letters in consequence of it, is that letter couched in the terms that you would have employed?—Most assuredly I should have employed them deliberately myself.

518. *Chairman*.] You said that the minute was lost?—I was told so, yesterday.

519. Are letters when they are written framed upon minutes, usually preserved at the Admiralty?—Yes.

520. The practice is to preserve them?—Most carefully.

521. Are they numbered in any way?—I am not sure of that, but minutes made by the Board, and letters received, are usually forthcoming; there is a very elaborate and careful system pursued, which has been a model to other departments of the Government; possibly this minute may have been asked for by some member of the Board, or by some person at Somerset House, which may account for its not being forthcoming; but there is in the books of the Admiralty a transcript, word for word, of the actual letter that was written.

522. Lord *Hotham*.] If the letter was missing, from what was this copied?—The letter is not missing, it is the original minute, as I have been told; possibly the original minute may be found. There is, however, an exact transcript of the letter that went to the superintendents of the dockyards in the entry books of the Admiralty.

523. *Chairman*.] It is the original minute at the Board, the rough draft, that cannot be found?—Yes, the minute made at the Board; possibly, however, a more exact search will produce it.

[The Witness withdrew.

524. *Chairman*.] (To Sir *Baldwin Walker*.) You stated that there were some documents referring to promotions, which were voluminous documents, and which could not be found?—No.

525. After you had seen them, to what clerk would they be committed?—To Mr. Eden; he wrote the minutes which I read to the Committee on these documents.

W. Eden, Esq.

Walter Eden, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

28 April 1853.

526. *Chairman.*] YOU saw these documents referring to promotions, which Sir Baldwin Walker mentioned?—Yes.

527. When did you see them?—On the 6th of May.

528. Were they in your possession for any time?—They were certainly in my hands in Sir Baldwin Walker's room.

529. Were they re-transmitted to the Admiralty by you?—Under my directions, certainly. I wrote Sir Baldwin Walker's minute, which he signed; and after having signed it, they were committed again to my hands, and taken out into the office to be recorded, and sent in a box, as I stated before, which is our usual course of sending documents.

530. Who would be the person at the Admiralty to open that box?—I cannot say.

531. To what department would it go?—I cannot say; I am not aware of the practice as to where those boxes are taken.

532. You do not know into what department it goes?—No. I wish to correct an error that I have made. I stated to the Committee that these documents came on the 6th; I omitted to state that they were forwarded from us on the 7th.

[The Witness withdrew.

Veneris, 29° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Lord Hotham.
Sir Benjamin Hall.	Mr. Beckett.
Sir Henry Ferguson Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

[*The following Letter was read by the Chairman from Sir Francis Baring:*]

29 April 1853.

My Lord, 88, Jermyn-street, 28 April 1853.

I TAKE the liberty of addressing you, as Chairman of the Committee appointed in consequence of Sir Benjamin Hall's motion. The Committee may find it necessary, in the performance of their duty, to call before them officers who served while I was at the Admiralty, and of putting to them questions relating to what passed between them and me. I take, therefore, the liberty of requesting, that if the Committee should see no objection, those officers should be informed, when so questioned, that I release them from any obligation of secrecy; and that they are at liberty, and it is my wish, that they should communicate to the Committee, without the slightest reserve, any communication, either in writing or verbal, which they may have had with me, which may in any way affect the subject before the Committee.

I am, &c.

The Lord Seymour. (signed) *F. Baring.*

Captain *Alexander Milne*, called in; and Examined.

Capt. *A. Milne.*

533. YOU have been at the Admiralty under several different administrations, have you not?—I was first appointed under Lord Auckland, in December 1847. I subsequently remained with Sir Francis Baring. I was then requested to remain with the Duke of Northumberland; and subsequently I have been requested to remain by Sir J. Graham. I have been since December 1847 continually at the Board.

534. Will you state what are the departments in the Admiralty which are specially under your supervision?—In addition to the general duties at the Board, I take charge of the store department of the navy, which embraces the whole of the materials of the dockyard; also the victualling of the navy and troops, the freight and transport department, and the appointment of paymasters and clerks. I formerly had

had the medical department, but it has been transferred to another member of the Board.

535. Does your department necessarily make you acquainted with the detail of the dockyard management?—It does not, with reference to promotions or appointments, because I have nothing to do with regard to the appointments or minor details, except so far as it relates to the supply of stores.

536. Under which of the Lords of the Admiralty do you consider the promotion specially brought?—With regard to the promotions in the higher branches of the service, such as master shipwrights, they belong to the First Lord of the Admiralty. With regard to the minor promotions of the Admiralty, they have been generally vested in the First Secretary of the Admiralty, such as leading men and foremen, and people of that description, connected with the heads of the trades in the workshops; what may be called inferior officers, subject to regulations issued in 1847.

537. When were you first aware of the circular of the 19th of April being issued?—I think it must have been about the 25th or 26th of that month.

538. You were not aware of it till the 25th or 26th?—No.

539. How were you first made aware of it?—I think it was from the Surveyor of the Navy.

540. When you were made aware of that circular having been issued, did you consult with any of the other Lords of the Admiralty?—No, I did not. I was the junior member of the Board, and therefore anything of that sort ought to rest with those who are the seniors.

541. Then you did not think that, as one of the Lords of the Admiralty, you, being a junior lord, were to be considered responsible for the issue of that circular?—Not as it did not affect the department that I had to do with.

542. On the 21st, Sir Baldwin Walker wrote a letter, and read part of it, as the Committee have been informed, to Admiral Parker in your presence?—I happened to go into Admiral Parker's room by chance. I generally go in every morning to see what is doing as to the detail of the service, and Sir Baldwin Walker happened to be there, and I think Admiral Parker mentioned that Sir Baldwin Walker had tendered his resignation, and at that time, as far as I remember, I think I saw the letter, and I read the letter; I think so.

543. You were aware, then, that Sir Baldwin Walker had tendered his resignation?—I was.

544. On the 21st?—I forget the date. I thought it was about the 25th; it might be that morning, or after; I will not be certain which.

545. Had you any communications with Sir Baldwin Walker upon the subject of his resignation?—None. Does your Lordship mean that Sir Baldwin Walker consulted me on anything with reference to it?

546. Did Sir Baldwin Walker consult you upon it, or did any of the Lords of the Admiralty, or the Secretary of the Admiralty, request you to speak to Sir Baldwin Walker upon the subject?—No.

547. You had no communication with any person respecting this?—None whatever. I remember merely hearing it, as the third party who happened to come in by chance.

548. Were you present at the Board on the 26th of April, when another circular was issued?—I was. I was present at the Board that morning.

549. It was then brought officially under your notice that a former circular had been issued by the Secretary?—Yes, it was; it was not formally brought under the notice of the Board at all. That minute of the 26th, I think it is, or the 27th of April, which stated that there was misconstruction put, &c. &c., was brought in as a minute that had been decided upon before it came to the Board; it was, I believe, drawn up in the presence of Admiral Parker, and, I believe, with the sanction of Sir Baldwin Walker and the late Secretary of the Admiralty; it was brought before the Board, I presumed, with the sanction also of the First Lord of the Admiralty, and it was, as far as I recollect, tacitly passed as a Board minute, agreed upon before it came to the Board.

550. You were present in that instance?—Yes, I was.

551. Did you notice the difference between the words of the minute, as it was read from the book, and the words of the circular, as it was issued and as it is printed in the return given to Parliament?—No, I did not.

552. You did not perceive that whereas in the minute it was said, "Misconstruction having arisen with reference to the circular," in the printed copy here,

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here, it is "Misconstruction having arisen with reference to their Lordships' circular"?—Any letter or minute emanating from the Admiralty, signed by the Secretary, would go in the name of the Board; it would not be a circular sent by the Secretary, but a letter, stating that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had done so and so, or by command of their Lordships; and the name of the Board would be made use of according to custom.

553. Is it usual for the Secretary to issue circulars of any kind as their Lordships' circulars, which have not been formally sanctioned by the Board?—It is not.

554. Are the Committee to understand you to mean, that a circular having been so issued by the Secretary of the Admiralty was an irregularity?—No doubt about it; before that circular should have been issued it should have been brought before the Board, and the matter discussed or considered whether it was necessary to do so; and it would require, in a case of that kind, two members to be present with the Secretary to form a Board.

555. What are the cases in which the Secretary may use the names of the Lords of the Admiralty without having first applied to them, or having obtained their sanction?—Only with regard to minor details, matters that are under his own supervision; for instance, the Secretary to the Admiralty has the patronage of appointments in the yards, and he would have authority, so far as minor details go, to correspond, direct or to use the name of the Board in that way, the same as I should myself in the store or other departments. I have authority to enter into minor details, and I give orders there without the knowledge of the other members; but if there is any subject which interferes with a previous order, or which I conceive ought to be more generally known to the members of the Board, the matter is left over for the Board; and in all minor details minutes are made by myself, which become general minutes of the Board.

556. In minor details you use the authority of the Board?—Yes, certainly; it is difficult to draw the line; it requires great caution in defining it one way or the other; a person must use his discretion in doing so.

557. If you were anxious to issue any order applying to several dockyards as to stores, should you think that a question larger than one of small detail, and necessary to be brought under the consideration of the Board?—I should do it myself, if it did not interfere with any previous Board order.

558. Are the duties of the Secretary of the Admiralty so distinct, that he can clearly ascertain what orders he may give without applying to the Board, or what orders he should not give, without the sanction of the Board?—I admit that is very difficult to define, without knowing the exact circumstances bearing upon each question; but the general rule is, that the Secretary has no authority to give any order at all that affects a general principle.

559. You have been at the Admiralty under several administrations since 1847; have the Lords of the Admiralty, in your recollection, occasionally differed from their Secretary as to the use of his authority?—I do not know of any instance that I can bring forward; I am not aware of any.

560. You do not remember any at this time?—No; no instance where there has been an interference on the part of the Secretary, to require the Board's interference to stop it.

561. Although the power of the Secretary, as distinguished from the power of the Board, is not very accurately defined, you think that no irregularity has arisen in consequence of that?—I am not aware of any.

562. Are circulars to the dockyards upon many subjects sent frequently?—There are circulars with reference to regulations, circulars as to the receipt of stores in the yards; but they are not very frequent as circulars. A circular implies some order to be given to order different improvements; those are not very frequent.

563. Should you consider that circulars could be issued, without coming to the Board for authority to issue them?—I think not; certainly not; the moment it becomes a circular, it involves a general principle affecting previous orders.

564. As I understand you, the circular of the 26th of April seemed to have been agreed to before it was brought to the Board?—I think so.

565. Therefore no discussion was raised upon it?—No.

566. Do you not visit the dockyards occasionally with the other Lords of the Admiralty?—In previous years I have; I only visited two dockyards last year, Portsmouth and Sheerness; in previous years I have always attended the visitations.

567. Was

567. Was not there a committee of the Lords of the Admiralty some time ago appointed to inquire into the dockyards?—In 1848, of which I was one; and the committee consisted of Sir Henry Ward, the then Secretary; the Surveyor, Sir Baldwin Walker; Mr. Bromley, the Secretary to the Audit Board; and myself. We visited all the yards; it was at the time that the Committee upon Naval Revision and Military Estimates was sitting.

568. You visited the yards at that time as a committee to look into the regulations and system of the yards?—It was with the view of looking into the details of the arrangements of the respective yards, making such alterations as we thought the circumstances of the case might require. We went into the detail of every department, and also examined the books and accounts; and made certain recommendations to the Board, which were adopted and carried out.

569. In that inquiry did you enter at all into the subject of promotions in the dockyards?—No, that had already been settled by previous circulars, which were issued in February 1847; that matter had been then arranged by Lord Auckland and Sir Henry Ward, and the only part that we went into was to make inquiries into the system, and how it was likely to work.

570. Inquiring into the system which had then been recently adopted, did you consider the system was working satisfactorily?—Certainly; the reports were, I think I may say, universally in favour of it.

571. Then considering, after inquiry, that the system of 1847 was satisfactory, did you form any opinion upon the circular of 1849?—The circular of 1849 was merely, I think, a confirmation of a part of the system that was then in force, which I believe was this, though I may not have the documents to prove the facts of the case: that the returns from the dockyards come up every month, and those returns consisted of the character and conduct of the individuals employed in the yards; and they also consisted of a return of the number of vacancies in the yards, and also a report upon the men who were recommended for promotion to fill any vacancies that happened to take place. Those returns were, I believe, invariably sent to the Surveyor of the Navy, and the Surveyor of the Navy upon them reported what vacancies should be filled up; and then, having come back to the Admiralty, the various notifications were made to the different yards.

572. That was the system in 1847?—Yes; at least I think that was the system; I was young in office then, and did not know exactly the detail. Then came the order of September 1849, which directed that the returns, instead of going to the Secretary to be sent to the Surveyor, and from him back to the Secretary, should go from the dockyard direct to the Surveyor, and from him come to the Secretary; that I thought was a good arrangement at the time, for, in the first place, the returns went directly to the officer who really was the controlling power of all that was going on in the yard, and in the next place it prevented any difficulty or delay with regard to any loss of papers; it is a plain and simple circumstance. The position in which the Surveyor of the Navy is placed is this: that he is the responsible party for the whole of the works and the wages in the yard, and he has the whole control of the estimates for the shipbuilding, and it was necessary that he should know what vacancies were to be filled up and what not. The Surveyor might find, after fixing the programme for a year, that at Devonport or Pembroke he has been ahead of his programme, or his work is ahead of the money he has to lay out; therefore, instead of filling all the vacancies in that yard, he may find himself behind at Portsmouth, or at Chatham, or at Sheerness; and therefore he would naturally say, "Do not fill up all the vacancies in those yards where I am ahead of the work, but let me work out the wages that are due to these yards, to bring up the arrears in the others by working extra time, or in task and job."

573. Do you consider it to be necessary, with a view to the economical administration of the dockyards, that the Surveyor should have a control upon the appointments?—I do not see who else is to do it; there is nobody else having in his hands the distribution of the money that actually has to be laid out during the current year.

574. Do you consider the circular of 1849, which apparently was a very slight alteration from the previous practice, so far as it went, an improvement upon that practice?—I think it was.

575. Did there appear to you any reason, in subsequent years, for altering the practice which you thought good in 1849?—I am not aware of anything; I never

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never heard any reason why it should be altered; I never heard any difficulties or any complaint.

576. I believe you have not taken any part in politics at any time, have you?—None whatever. When I was first appointed, it was under the understanding that I was to take no part in politics, and the same thing was stated to me when I subsequently came to the Admiralty; and I have faithfully adhered to that regulation, and have neither directly nor indirectly taken any part whatever in politics.

577. Do you consider that the promotions in the dockyards, before the issue of the circular of the 19th of April, had been made politically?—I believe not; I have no reason to say so whatever.

578. You have no reason to think that any political influence had led to promotions, or to persons being passed over?—Certainly not; going back to the time I came to the Admiralty, which was subsequently to the regulations of 1847.

579. Sir Baldwin Walker referred to some regulations or instructions issued by Sir Francis Baring to the superintendents in regard to that?—I am not aware that there is any regulation; I think that, in all appointments that were made by Sir Francis Baring, and in several of them he consulted me, he always made it a condition that the appointments were given upon the distinct understanding that they were not to take any political part whatever in the yard to which they were appointed.

580. You think that was his direction given to the superintendents of the dockyards?—I believe so; to the best of my belief it was.

581. Lord *Hotham.*] That applied to all appointments in the dockyards, did it not?—All appointments.

582. *Chairman.*] Were you aware of the letter written by Sir Baldwin Walker to the First Lord of the Admiralty on the 10th of May?—I was not, till some time afterwards.

583. Can you mention when you first become acquainted with it?—It might be either in the end of June or July.

584. Was that letter brought under the notice of the Board?—Not to my knowledge.

585. In what way did you become acquainted with it?—I think it was from the Surveyor of the Navy himself; he mentioned it to me.

586. Had anything occurred to lead you to form any opinion regarding the mode of making promotions that was then going on, namely, after the issue of the circular of the 19th of April?—Nothing.

587. When you read that letter, or heard that letter of Sir Baldwin Walker's read, you were not aware of any case either proving or disproving the assertions in it?—The fact is, that nothing ever came before me; I am totally ignorant of anything connected with promotions or appointments in the dockyards, either under the late Goverment, or the Government before; I was totally removed from all interference.

588. Lord *Hotham.*] You have stated something about the patronage which was usually in the hands of the Secretary of the Admiralty; has any alteration taken place in reference to the patronage during the time that you have been at the Admiralty?—None.

589. No one Secretary has had a larger or a smaller share?—I believe not. What I mean by patronage, or, I may say appointments to the dockyards, or first nominations, is this: it has always been considered a part of the duty of the First Secretary, in the distribution of the Board duty, the same as the store department is distributed to me.

590. What is the direct patronage which the First Lord exercises as to the disposal of all offices?—The First Lord has the promotion of all officers in the navy, and the senior appointments in the dockyards, such as master shipwrights and assistant master shipwrights; they belong to the First Lord.

591. Anything beyond that?—No, I am not aware of anything beyond that.

592. Has the senior Naval Lord any patronage distinctly appropriated to himself?—He has merely a certain number of appointments of naval cadets given to him, which come in turn, and he has nothing else; no promotions.

593. There is no branch of the service to which he makes the appointments; commanders to ships of the line?—He has nominally no patronage.

594. Has he any particular appointments?—None, except what I have named.

595. With

595. With regard to the next Naval Lord, has he any?—He has all the appointments of officers to ships; the appointment of lieutenant, and the appointment of masters and second masters; that is his duty at the Board. Capt. *A. Milne.* 29 April 1853.

596. As to those appointments, so divided among the different Lords of the Admiralty, there has been no alteration since you have been at the Board, in respect to the distribution of those appointments among the several Lords?—Sometimes when a new Government comes in, and a new Admiralty, perhaps the distribution of that duty may be different, and instead of the second Naval Lord it would be the first Naval Lord. When I first joined, the First Naval Lord took all the appointments of officers; subsequently, the second Sea Lord got all the appointments; it is an arrangement made when the Board comes into office.

597. Has it ever happened, or occasionally, that minutes are brought to the Board which appear to have been previously agreed upon?—Very seldom.

598. As between the First Lord and the First Naval Lord, does that ever happen?—Sometimes, but very rarely; it happens on matters of importance; for instance, with regard to the moving of the fleet, that the First Lord and the First Sea Lord may consult upon matters of detail, and the First Lord will bring a minute to the Board, and say he begs to submit it for the consideration of the Board.

599. It is an unusual circumstance, is not it?—Yes.

600. You stated that when you made a visit to the dockyards you made some inquiry into the working of the system established by Sir Henry Ward; will you state what was the nature of that inquiry?—It was merely when the heads of the departments came before us, the superintendent of the yard, the master shipwright, and the master attendant, that we inquired whether the new system which had just come into operation about 10 or 11 months, was working satisfactorily in the yards; and the answer was, that they thought altogether that it was satisfactory.

601. The promotions being made according to merit, instead of politics interfering, that the system was working well?—Yes, satisfactorily.

602. An allusion has been made to a direction which Sir Francis Baring so properly gave with reference to the non-interference with politics in the yards: do you know whether orders were given to the several superintendents to see that the obligation laid upon every person receiving an appointment was acted upon?—No, I think not; no order was sent.

603. Are you aware whether any endeavour was made to see whether that obligation was broken?—No. I think you must leave it to the honour of the party himself. I do not think that you could by any regulation bind a person in that way. When an officer is appointed and receives that appointment under these conditions, I hope his own honour would prevent him from making any interference.

604. May the Committee assume, in consequence of that course which was taken by Sir Francis Baring, that there has been an entire abstinence on the part of all individuals in the yards from any interference at elections?—It is impossible for me to say; I am not sufficiently acquainted with the parties or the details of the place; I cannot speak of my own knowledge.

605. You cannot say whether any officers in the dockyards have or have not taken an active part at the different elections?—I cannot.

606. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You stated, did you not, that in matters of minor detail the Secretary or an individual Lord may issue circulars; and when he does so, that he would use the name of the Board?—I should not say "circular," because a circular would embrace some general principle. In mere minor detail, as is in the instructions with regard to the five officers at Somerset House, the Surveyor, the Accountant-general, the Comptroller of Victualling, the head of the Medical Department, they are ordered to communicate with the several departments of the dockyards, victualling yards, or hospitals, upon all matters of minor detail, leaving other matters for the decision of the superintending Lord of the department, and if he has not power, he refers it to the Board; and, so with regard to all minor detail, the Lords of the Admiralty naturally communicate with the departments, and the Secretary would do so upon matters more especially under his special supervision.

607. Then would such minutes be entered in what is called the General Minute Book?—They would, so far as they were connected with what takes place at Whitehall;

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Whitehall; but they are so numerous that it would take many books to attempt to include every minute, or what was done at Somerset House. Generally speaking, they are put in the General Minute Book. I am certain of this, that it is quite impossible that all minutes can be put in; they are so numerous; all the principal ones are.

608. Such minutes as you allude to you would not think it necessary to bring under the attention of the Board?—I would not.

609. Any minute interfering with any previous order, you would consider as stepping beyond that limit?—Yes, and I think the Board ought to know any proposed alteration.

610. Do you think in a case of irregularity, for you have called it irregularity, having been committed, that it would have been right at the first Board to bring that matter before it?—Certainly; I think it was irregular in issuing it without the knowledge of the Board.

611. There having been Boards for three or four days consecutively after the 19th, you think that that minute ought to have been brought before the Board?—I think so; the Board ought to have been made acquainted with it. With regard to that minute, the subsequent order of the 26th of April, it matters not which is in force, so long as the returns reach the Surveyor of the Navy. The order of the 26th April directed that they should come to the Secretary, who ought to send them on to the Surveyor, that he might report upon them; but it matters very little whether they actually come direct or through the Secretary, as long as they reach the department where the control is.

612. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that the Surveyor of the Navy should have an opportunity of making his remarks upon the appointments?—Certainly.

613. Upon the promotions?—Certainly.

614. You think it of minor importance whether they go first to him and then to the Admiralty, or first to the Admiralty and then to him?—Quite so, as long as they reach the department where the control must exist; as long as the Surveyor has the control of the expenditure of money in the yard, I think that he must have an ultimate control under the authority of the Admiralty.

615. You think that when they are sent to the Surveyor of the Navy, he should be authorised to make his remarks upon the promotions?—Certainly; as to promotions in a dockyard, the superintendent is ordered, when a vacancy occurs, that the three best men should be selected by the professional officers; those three names are taken to the superintendent, and the superintendent is then ordered personally to go into the written characters by the returns of the officers, and he is to run his pen through the name of the party who is least entitled to promotion; then the two names are sent up to the Admiralty, and they should go to the Surveyor of the Navy, that he may report as to his knowledge of them as best qualified for the situation.

616. Sir *B. Hall.*] That was the course taken before the 19th of April?—That was the course ordered by the circular of 1847; and then the circular of 1849, instead of allowing these returns to come through the Secretary to the Surveyor, directed that they should come direct to the Surveyor, and that the Surveyor should then submit them to the Secretary.

617. In that case the Surveyor would incur the responsibility of his submission to the Board in the first instance?—Previously, when it first came to the Secretary, it still went to the Surveyor, and he was equally responsible; it is merely a question which way those returns are to reach the Surveyor; whether they are to reach him through the Secretary of the Admiralty, or whether they are to reach him direct from the dockyards.

618. *Chairman.*] You have said that the superintendent of the dockyard has to run his pen through the name least entitled to promotion?—Yes.

619. Are you aware whether or not the name through which the superintendent of the dockyard has to run his pen has ever been afterwards selected for promotion?—That I cannot tell; I do not know anything about the promotions that have ever taken place; that has never come under my cognizance in any way whatever; either the names or the promotions in the yards; I only know the general system.

620. From your general knowledge of the dockyards, and having inquired into them, with a view to promote their efficiency and the economy of the service, do you think that it would be desirable that the men in the yards should cease to have votes?—I think it would be advantageous for the service.

621. Mr.

621. Mr. *Beckett.*] Can you tell the Committee whether the nominations in the reports which were ordered, by the circular of the 19th of April, to go direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty, were afterwards submitted to the Surveyor?—I do not know.

622. *Chairman.*] Your name was mentioned yesterday in connexion with a letter; perhaps you will state to the Committee anything you wish to say upon that subject?—I may mention, as my name was mentioned as to what took place about Sir Baldwin Walker's letter, that when copies were called for, Mr. Stafford expressed a wish that, as I was a friend of Sir Baldwin Walker, I would endeavour to smooth matters over. I entertained the same opinion, that it was a pity to rake up a business that had been passed over for several months; and as he was called upon for copies of the letters, I thought it might cause a misunderstanding at the Board. I went as a friend to both parties, to use my endeavours merely in an amicable way, in order that the copies should not be sent, so as not to raise a question; and I did that without any intention of acting against Sir Baldwin Walker or against Mr. Stafford. I certainly, by my influence with Sir Baldwin Walker, got him to withdraw the copies of those letters; and that is the reason the copies were not sent. I think it due to Sir Baldwin Walker that I should make that statement; it was done on my part with a good spirit and a good intention, to prevent any misunderstanding arising.

623. That was, as I understand, in November, when the questions were asked?—Yes, the 29th of November.

624. Sir *B. Hall.*] Then you believe that, had it not been for your kindly interference in the matter, Sir Baldwin Walker would positively have handed in those letters?—Certainly.

625. *Chairman.*] At what date had you this interview with Sir Baldwin Walker?—I think it was on the 29th of November.

626. Had you then observed the questions that had been asked in Parliament respecting any complaints having taken place?—I did not go upon that at all. I went upon the Board's minute. I might have seen them or not; I thought that it was to be regretted, as the matter was settled as far back as the month of May; and I merely went, in a friendly way, to try and avoid an unpleasant affair.

627. Did you consider at that time that Sir Baldwin Walker had withdrawn his resignation, or in what position do you think he was then placed?—I thought the matter had dropped; that some explanation had taken place, and the whole thing was done with.

628. You thought you should hear no more of it?—Yes, I thought so.

629. Is not the Secretary of the Admiralty a servant of the Board?—He is.

630. Is it not in the power of the Board to annul any order of the Secretary if they disapprove of it?—No doubt about it, but the order should not be given in the first instance.

631. Can you remember any occasion on which the Board have been placed in such a position that they have been obliged to annul an order issued by the Secretary?—I am not aware of any. I have no recollection of any.

632. Did you consider that, as the Board did not annul the order of the 19th of April, they sanctioned it by their minute of the 26th of April?—In reading the minute of the 26th of April attentively, I have no doubt it gives a confirmation to the previous circular; that I admit. With regard to that Board minute, if it was read at all, which I do not recollect, except the first part of it, I understood it merely as an apology to the Surveyor of the Navy for the previous order, and I did not at the time take it as a minute confirming the previous order of the 19th of April. I did not see it afterwards. Until I read it, when laid upon the table of the House, I certainly did not put that interpretation upon it which I am obliged to do now; that it is confirmatory of the order of the 19th of April.

633. On the 26th was the general minute book, in which the former circular had been entered, read at the table?—They are never read.

634. Have you ever seen it in that book?—I have not, because there is not time for members of the Board to read those books; they are brought in to the Board while the Board is sitting, and the moment it is over they are obliged to go to the *précis* writer to have the minutes entered; and by the time the Board is over it is generally past my time to be at Somerset House.

635. Was the conduct of the Secretary ever made a matter of discussion at a meeting of the Board?—Never, that I am aware of; I may have been absent.

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636. From your explanation of the effect of the two circulars of the year 1847 and the year 1849, the cancelling of the circular of 1849 would not of itself have prevented the Surveyor of the Admiralty from giving his opinion in regard to promotions?—Provided all the returns were sent to him.

637. What security would there be that all the returns would be sent to him from the dockyards, unless they passed through his hands to the Admiralty?—The integrity of the Secretary of the Admiralty that he should forward them.

638. It would then be entirely in the power of the Secretary to forward them or to withhold them?—Certainly.

639. Did not Sir Francis Baring remove a storekeeper of the name of Baldock from Chatham to Devonport, on account of his active political partisanship on the Radical side?—Not on that account, that I am aware of; he was promoted I believe, as senior store receiver, and removed to the Devonport Dockyard at my recommendation, because I believed him to have been a political partisan at Chatham and at Sheerness, and I thought he had better not be promoted in that yard, but go to Devonport. There were two promotions.

640. When this active politician got to Devonport, did he take part in politics there?—I am not aware at all; he is since dead.

641. When you went to speak to Sir Baldwin Walker, and recommended him not to send in his correspondence, did you go to him on your own account, or were you sent by any one?—The Secretary spoke to me, saying that he wished me to act, as I was a mutual friend, if I could act as mediator in the case; and certainly that was my own feeling at the time; I admit it; if it was possible that I could stop a disagreeable proceeding taking place, I was anxious to do so.

642. Did Mr. Stafford request you to mediate in the matter?—Yes.

643. With a view of inducing Sir Baldwin Walker to withhold the correspondence?—Yes; so many months had elapsed, that the thing had, I presumed, blown over; and I thought it a pity that all this should be again raked up, and I acted with a perfectly friendly view and a friendly intention.

644. As you mediated in this matter, you did not think that the system of promotion then going on was injurious to the service?—I knew nothing about that; I was totally ignorant of what was going on; none of these things ever came before me; and members of the Board are not aware either of promotions or appointments to the yards.

645. Mr. *Beckett.*] You were present, were you not, at the Board meeting, when the circular of the 26th was agreed upon?—Yes.

646. It does not seem to have attracted your particular notice?—No.

647. But still you are of opinion that it would not have been adopted without the permission and sanction of the Board generally?—As I said before, that minute, I understood, was drawn up in the presence of Admiral Parker, and I believe with the sanction of the Surveyor and with that of Mr. Stafford together, when the interview took place in Admiral Parker's room; and I presume it was submitted to the First Lord before it came to the Board. Therefore it was no part of my duty to raise a question upon that which I presumed the First Lord and the First Sea Lord had approved, therefore I took no part in it.

648. Sir *B. Hall.*] Did you ever remonstrate against the issue of the circular of the 19th of April?—No, I did not.

649. *Chairman.*] Did Mr. Stafford, when he asked you to mediate, express a wish to have the letters suppressed, or did he ask you to mediate generally?—I think he used this expression, that it would be very disagreeable if Sir Baldwin Walker sent copies of those letters, and it would be far better to leave it alone, if it could be avoided.

[The Witness withdrew.

Captain the Honourable *Frederick T. Pelham,* R. N., called in; and Examined.

Capt. the Hon. *F. T. Pelham,* R.N.

650. *Chairman.*] YOU were Private Secretary to the Duke of Northumberland, were you not?—I was.

651. Did you receive a letter from Sir Baldwin Walker on the 10th of May, for the Duke of Northumberland?—Before answering that question, will the Committee allow me to make a remark, which I wish to make with all deference, namely, that my position at the Admiralty with the Duke of Northumberland was one of an entirely confidential nature; and that though I may have no difficulty

difficulty in answering this question, still I think I ought to state that everything that took place with regard to myself and his Lordship was more or less of a private and confidential nature; and that, in my different communications, that was my impression, and the impression of the Duke of Northumberland. I ought to state, that I do not make this remark in consequence of anything the Duke of Northumberland has said to me; but when I received the summons to attend before this Committee, I went to the Duke of Northumberland, and I told him that I had received a summons, and of course I should obey it; but that I thought, as I was his private secretary, everything was of a private and confidential nature, and that I should suggest to the Committee whether they would not dispense with my answering questions. I think it is right to state that the Duke has given me no directions whatever to refuse or not. With regard to the question which has been asked me, I have no hesitation in saying that I received a letter from Sir Baldwin Walker; and, as part of my duty, I presented it to the Duke of Northumberland.

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[The Witness withdrew.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, called in; and further Examined.

652. *Chairman.*] WITH regard to those submissions of promotions, those documents that were lost, will you state to what clerks they were committed?—By me they were committed to the charge of Mr. Eden, who was examined yesterday. After I had signed the submissions that I read to the Committee yesterday, they were given into the hands of Mr. Eden, and acted upon the following day the Admiralty, because the promotions went forward.

Sir *B. Walker.*

653. Have you copies of them?—No.

654. Were any copies kept?—No.

655. Those documents being lost, could copies be obtained?—They could be obtained at Woolwich, no doubt. I had a search made for two days in the record office at the Admiralty; and I believe the gentleman at the head of that office is here at present.

656. The record department will be the department in which the Committee ought to inquire for those documents?—They ought to be in the record office at the Admiralty, if they are in existence. When I heard that this inquiry was to take place, I sent there for them; and, after two days' search, the answer I got was that they had never been there, and never noted at all.

657. You put in your letter of the 22d November?—Yes.

658. That was an answer to the letter of Mr. Stafford?—Yes, it was.

659. Have you the letter to which that was an answer?—I have that letter; that letter is marked "Private," mine is not. I brought that letter forward, because it was asserted in the House of Commons that I could not find the correspondence when I was asked the question by the late Secretary of the Admiralty. I brought that letter forward to state I cannot now find the copies of the correspondence which took place as to the promotions in the dockyards. I explained yesterday that the correspondence was in the despatch box at my own residence.

660. The Committee understand that Mr. Stafford wishes you to put in his letter?—I will read it: "Dear Sir Baldwin,—What correspondence is referred to in the third page of enclosed letter? I do not know of any. Answer as soon as you can, and return Admiral Berkeley's letter. I am truly yours, *Augustus Stafford*."

661. That was the letter to which yours was a reply?—Yes.

662. What is the name of the person in the record department?—Mr. Barrow.

[The Witness withdrew.

John Barrow, Esq., called in; and Examined.

663. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your position at the Admiralty?—That of Keeper of the Records.

J. Barrow, Esq.

664. Have you been looking for some documents to which Sir Baldwin Walker referred?—Yes, I have.

665. Were the documents relating to submissions of promotion?—They were.

666. Is that a class of documents that is always kept in the record office of

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the Admiralty?—No, not always; they sometimes go to the Surveyor of the Navy; I believe they are lodged there; at least I never see them.

667. Do you know of any rule which guides whether or not they are in your charge, or in charge of the Surveyor of the Navy?—I am not aware of any rule that guides that.

668. Do you take charge of any papers that you receive at once, merely upon receiving them?—Immediately upon receiving them; they come up every morning in a box; it is locked; I open it and take out the letters, and I then consider them in my charge.

669. Are they directed to the record department?—The box has "Paper Box" upon it.

670. May not any Lord of the Admiralty, or either of the secretaries, send for any paper or papers from that record office?—Certainly.

671. And when a paper is so taken, do you take a note of the person who has taken it?—Invariably.

672. When a paper has been so taken by a Lord of the Admiralty or his secretary, should you inquire after it again after a certain time?—No, it would be impossible to do so; I conceive there are so many constantly going out from the record office, that it would be impossible.

673. Do you take a note of the person who takes it?—Say a Lord of the Admiralty sent for a letter,—I immediately make a document, and state the date on which it was given out to him; this is placed where the letter ought to be, and there it remains till the letter comes back; and if any one in the meantime asks for the letter, I show him the document, and I say I gave it to such and such a Lord on such and such a day.

674. One of the Lords of the Admiralty may pass a paper on to another Lord?—Undoubtedly; that frequently happens, I have no doubt.

675. Without it coming back again through the record office?—Yes.

676. Then your paper stating who took it from you, would not give correct information as to the person in whose charge it was?—It would not.

677. With regard to those documents to which Sir Baldwin Walker refers, you have no note respecting them in the record office?—No, none whatever.

678. They were never there?—None of those names that Sir Baldwin Walker sent to me could I see in the books; there was no entry of the names for the periods for which he asked for them. There was one name that occurred, the name of William Lacey; the name occurred in the books of 1852. On the 29th of September 1852, William Lacey was recommended from Woolwich, and the Surveyor supported the recommendation, and he was promoted with a man of the name of Freshwater.

679. Have you in the record office a notice of Ridgeway, promoted at Chatham?—No; this was the 26th of April 1852; that was the date quoted by Sir Baldwin Walker; there are several names mentioned, and among others Ridgeway, but there is no minute at all about him. Sir Baldwin Walker says, that on the 26th of April, Ridgeway and others were advanced to be sawyers, without having been recommended by the superintendent. I find no minute of their advancement, nor any mention of them in 1852; nor was there any mention of them in 1851: not in my books.

680. Those papers never were in your custody?—They were never in my custody at all.

681. When papers are once in your custody, are they numbered in any way?—Most of them, but some are put away in their dates; all the Woolwich and Devonport yard papers (indeed all the dock and victualling yard letters) are put away in their dates; but any letter from admirals, or captains, or lieutenants, and other officers, and miscellaneous persons not connected with the navy, are consecutively numbered.

682. When not numbered consecutively, the substraction of one letter would not be known afterwards?—No, certainly not; if taken away unknown to me.

683. As there seems to be a difficulty in finding those documents, where would be the place where they ought to be; if they are not at the record office, in what department of the Admiralty is it probable they might be?—As regards any appointment at the dockyards, I should certainly suppose with the Surveyor of the Navy; it is the only department to which I should refer. If it was any question about pay, then I would go to the Accountant-general's department; if about stores, to the Storekeeper-general's; and so on.

684. When

684. When documents are sent in a box from Somerset House, would they necessarily be brought to the record department?—No; they generally come under cover to me from the different departments at Somerset House; any letters that have been done with, and sent to them to note, are sent under cover to me. A great many are sent in the first instance to Somerset House to be noted in a different department there; I have no knowledge of them till they come back to me, and then they are addressed to me under cover.

685. The Committee have been informed that those documents were sent in a box from Somerset House to the Admiralty; to whom would that box naturally go?—I imagine that that must refer to documents that have not passed through the office; the different departments of the Admiralty at Somerset House would send them in the box to the Board-room; the boxes do not come to me at all from any departments at Somerset House. Probably they might have been referred to the Surveyor for any observations he might have to make, and then they would very likely come back in the box.

686. Have papers frequently been sent for from the record office which have been misplaced, so that they could not be found when wanted?—Yes, frequently.

687. In the mass of papers that you have, that has frequently occurred?—Yes.

688. Have any regulations as to the custody of papers been made with a view to that arising?—None; beyond the notations which we make when we give out our papers.

689. The papers are sent not only to the different persons in the departments of the Admiralty, but sent from the record office to the different departments in Somerset House?—Yes; a great number daily.

690. Does that also lead to their being displaced and lost?—Frequently. I have seen letters sewn up in books at Somerset House, which ought not to be; one or two I saw sewn up in their books, which belonged to and had our regular office marks upon them.

691. When minutes for the appointment of men to the dockyards are executed, where are they first made out?—In the legal branch at Whitehall.

692. Then what becomes of the appointment?—I should imagine that it is generally sent to the Surveyor to be noted, and then it comes to me; I think that is the practice. I have seen a great number come back with the word "Noted," and Sir Baldwin Walker's initials upon them.

693. When it comes to you, do you keep it as a record?—Yes, then it remains with me as a record.

694. What refers to appointments would refer equally to promotions, when promotions were made as the promotions in the spring of 1852 were; they would be sent in the first instance to the Surveyor of the Navy to be noted?—So I imagine. I believe that to be the practice, as most of them come to me with the word "Noted," and Sir Baldwin Walker's initials on them.

695. Mr. *Beckett.*] Have you any minute of receiving papers upon the day on which this box is said to have been sent to you, or of having any other papers but those to which this investigation refers?—No, I have no other minute.

696. Your impression is, that you had not received the box that day?—The box does not come to me; the letters come under cover.

697. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] When you receive such documents as those alluded to by Sir Baldwin Walker, under cover, do you make a minute or a list of those papers?—No; when they come, I mark them for our digest; we have a digest and index, and the man's name is generally inserted in both; in the digest it is stated what appointment has been made, and in the index merely a notation against the man's name, and a reference to the letter. There is a double check upon the letter, and then it goes away in its date in the different pigeon-holes of the different dockyards, as they are arranged.

698. Lord *Hotham.*] Has the consolidation of the Admiralty and Navy Boards led to any material increase in the correspondence to be preserved at the Admiralty?—Very considerable. I should say, it certainly has doubled it.

699. Is it still increasing?—I think not now; it varies; sometimes it is heavier one year; but taking one year with another, it is not still increasing.

700. *Chairman.*] Do you say that the correspondence of the Admiralty is much the same now as it has been for many years past?—I think so now; during the famine in Ireland,—that was a very heavy year; that occasioned great correspondence, and increased it very much.

[The Witness withdrew.

John Holman Hay, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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701. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation do you hold at the Admiralty?—I am Chief Clerk.

702. How long have you held that situation?—Four years.

703. Lord *Hotham.*] You have passed through all the various grades at the Admiralty, have you not?—Yes, during 47 years of service.

704. *Chairman.*] You have heard the questions asked with reference to those missing papers?—Yes.

705. Can you explain to the Committee what course they should pursue in order to discover those papers that are missing?—It would be a very difficult matter indeed. In the first place, I must tell the Committee that most of the papers pass through my hands; the greatest part of them. It is my duty to take the general superintendence, and to see that all the papers, as far as I can, go correctly. They come down to me in the morning from the Board-room, and I distribute them to the different departments of the office to be executed; and when they are executed, the letters are again sent to me, and I send those letters up to the Secretary for his signature, or to their Lordships, according as it may be; and at the end of the day the minutes that have been executed, and the different letters that have been received, are again sent to me, and I receive the whole of them. They are brought in cases; and if my time will admit of it I go through them, to see that they have been properly executed, and to see that the clerk, whose department it is in, has put his initials as confirming that the thing has been done; then I lock them up, and that box goes to the record office, and I have nothing more to do with it. They go there to be regularly recorded.

706. Would papers sent by the Surveyor of the Navy to the Admiralty in Whitehall come to you in the first instance?—No, they would not. The fact is this: there are five principal officers at Somerset House, and there are five different departments, one at the head of each of those departments; they have a box specially for each of those departments, and those boxes are all brought down to the Admiralty by 10 o'clock or half-past nine, and those are taken into the Board-room; the reading clerk opens those boxes, and, according to his duty there, he distributes the minutes, and submits such to the different Lords in whose departments they belong, or to the Secretary; he distributes them in that way.

707. Are the Committee to understand that the box sent from the Surveyor of the Navy would naturally go to the Board-room?—Certainly.

708. Would that be a course which would not be deviated from?—Yes, that is the regular course.

709. When at the Board-room, would it be opened by the Secretary?—No, it would be opened by the reader at the Board.

710. He would open the box and distribute the papers, would he not?—Yes, he would distribute them in this way: if they belonged to any particular Lord (say Captain Milne), anything relating to his department the reading clerk would give to him; anything that should come generally before the Board he would submit to the Secretary, and the Secretary would bring it before the Board, and then read it.

711. Do you know whether the reading clerk makes any note of what papers he receives?—No, he could not do that; it would be impossible, there are so many. The reading clerk has the opening of all those letters that are received that day; he has to make the various notations in his book relative to so many letters, that it would be utterly impossible for him to keep a record of them.

712. From your long experience at the Admiralty, have you often observed that papers are lost?—Very frequently indeed, to my very great regret; and how to obviate it I have never been able to discover.

713. Is there any particular class of papers more liable to be lost than another class?—That would be a very difficult question to answer. I do not think there are particularly.

714. When papers are lost at the Admiralty, is any note made so that a record is kept of their having been lost?—So far as this, that when a paper is once recorded in the record office, if that is sent for again, there is a notation made, a little

little memorandum made, as to the person to whom it is sent; and if that paper is not returned, and is applied for again, of course application is made to whoever it has been sent to; and if he has no knowledge of it, or it has escaped his memory, it is the bounden duty of the clerks in the record office to go about to the different Lords, and ascertain whether it is with them or not.

715. If a paper has been taken away, it is noted to whom it is given?—Yes.

716. Then no further notice is taken of that paper until it is asked for again?—Not very frequently; certainly not; because the fact is this: so many papers are demanded from the record office in the course of the day, that it would be almost impossible to do it.

717. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Do you know the nature of those particular documents that the Committee are inquiring about?—Merely from what I have just heard from Mr. Barrow. I believe they are applications from persons for appointments at the dockyards, or for nominations to appointments.

718. Those would go in the usual way, in a box, to the Board-room?—No; those would be individual applications from different persons, and they would probably come with the common letters of the day; and they would go, if the Secretary had the nomination, to him in the first instance.

719. Lord *Hotham.*] Those were papers coming from Somerset House and the Surveyor's Office?—If so, they would go directly to the reading clerk, in his box.

720. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You say that he distributes them to the several officers, whether Lords or secretaries, as the case may be?—Exactly.

721. To what department, or to whom, would such papers as those be handed?—To the Secretary, under the late regulation.

722. *Chairman.*] Under what late regulation?—I allude to the regulation which desired that all applications from the dockyards should go to the Secretary; I am alluding to the circular of the 19th of April.

723. Mr. *Beckett.*] You do not think that there is any schedule or memorandum of the papers that do come before the reading clerk each day?—No. I do not know whether it is regular or not, but I should like to correct a little, as to Mr. Barrow's evidence with regard to some papers, as to which he said that when those appointments were made out they were then sent to the Surveyor of the Navy, who returned them; now that is not the case. The fact is this: when those appointments are minuted by the Secretary, they go to a particular department in the Admiralty, and that department communicates those appointments to the individuals, and it also communicates them to the Surveyor; but the minutes themselves come down to me afterwards, in the general mass of minutes.

724. Those appointments were made out in the legal department, were they not?—Yes.

725. After being made out, they are noted by the Secretary?—No; they are made out in the legal department, for the information of the persons that are appointed sawyers or carpenters of a yard, or shipwrights; then a list of these appointments is sent to the Surveyor of the Navy; a general list; not the minutes themselves.

726. Acquainting him that those appointments had been made?—Yes; and also to the superintendents of the yards.

727. *Chairman.*] After the circular of the 19th of April 1852, the recommendations for promotion from the superintendents of the different yards would have come direct to the Admiralty, and not have passed through Somerset House?—Certainly.

728. Can you say what was the course pursued with them after the 19th of April?—They of course were sent to the Secretary.

729. After that did they come back?—When executed, of course; when every thing was done upon them, any decision that the Secretary might have made upon them would go to the legal department to be executed.

730. After that, what would be done with them?—Then they would come to me.

731. What should you do with them?—I should send them to the record office.

732. Are the Committee to understand you that in that case they would not have gone at all to the Surveyor of the Navy?—A communication would be made to him, I may call it a letter, signed by the Secretary of the Admiralty, stating that such and such appointments had been made.

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733. But then the Surveyor of the Navy would have had no opportunity of giving any opinion upon those appointments?—Not the slightest.

734. Was that the actual course pursued with the recommendations of promotions from the superintendents of the dockyards, from the 19th of April, until the cancelling of Mr. Stafford's circular?—Certainly.

[The Witness withdrew.

Sir *Baldwin Walker* called in; and further Examined.

Sir *B. Walker.*

735. *Chairman.*] IN the Paper, No. 271, of this Session, there is a letter of yours, dated the 9th of September 1852, recommending James Wells for the charge of the smithery at Portsmouth?—Yes.

736. That is, recommending that he should be appointed, he being a person taken from a private yard?—Yes.

737. That was, I think you stated, in consequence of the decision of the Admiralty that a person from a private yard should be appointed to Portsmouth?—It was communicated to me by Admiral Hyde Parker in August.

738. He communicated to you that the Board of Admiralty had decided that?—That I was to select a person from the private trade.

739. Was it his own wish?—That I am not positive of; I merely received it from him as the immediate head connected with my department. I received an order from him to select a person from the private trade, in consequence of the master smith in Portsmouth Dockyard having been superannuated as well as the first foreman.

740. Admiral Hyde Parker holding that high position at the Admiralty, was it in his power to give you those directions without bringing the subject under the notice of the Board?—Of course it was impossible for me to be aware of that; I received the directions when I was out of town.

741. You are not aware whether any general appointment was noticed either in the General Minute Book or in the Board Minute Book?—I am not aware of that; I merely made a submission; but what steps were taken at Whitehall I am not aware.

742. Can you tell the Committee whether it is usual, supposing Admiral Hyde Parker wished such an appointment to be made, that he should make a minute of it in the General Minute Book?—I should think not; it would be merely confirmed after the submission I made.

743. I see by your letter of the 13th of April 1853 (Paper 343), that you state to the Secretary of the Admiralty: "In reply to your letter of this day's date, directing me to supply a copy of the decision of August last, therein referred to, respecting the selection of a person from the private trade to be master smith at Portsmouth, I beg to acquaint you that there is no official document on the subject in this office, but that such decision was communicated to me by Vice Admiral Hyde Parker"?—It was.

744. You are not aware whether or not Admiral Hyde Parker would have noticed that in the General Minute Book?—I am not aware at all.

745. Had any previous communication passed between you and Admiral Hyde Parker upon the expediency of appointing persons from private yards?—The state of the smitheries had been frequently the subject of conversation; Admiral Hyde Parker had inspected the smithery at Woolwich, and was very much struck at the arrangement and order there. Perhaps the Committee will allow me to read a submission from Commodore Eden, with reference to the smithery at Woolwich. "Woolwich Dockyard, 30th of August 1849. Sir, I have the honour to represent for the information of their Lordships, that upon taking charge as superintendent at this yard, I was requested by their Lordships' late Secretary (the Right honourable H. G. Ward), with a view to the introduction of a better and more profitable mode of carrying on the works in the smithery here, to procure the services of an intelligent man fully competent to take charge of that establishment, and then to recommend Mr. Richard Venning, the present master smith, who is 68 years of age, for a pension. Having succeeded (with the assistance of Mr. Humphreys)," he was the head of the steam factory, "in finding a person, Mr. George Black, of Liverpool, who I have every reason to believe possesses the whole of the requisite qualifications, I beg to forward his certificates herewith; and to submit for the approval of their Lordships, that Mr. Venning be superannuated, and

that

that Mr. Black be entered on probation for six months, to be paid at the rate of 200*l.* a year, with the understanding that if, at the expiration of that period, his conduct and abilities should be found to be perfectly satisfactory, he shall be appointed master smith at the full salary, viz., 250*l.* a year. I have the honour to be, Sir, your very humble servant, (signed) *Henry Eden.*"

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746. That was a report in 1849?—Yes; in August 1849. George Black was ordered to be appointed on probation accordingly in September 1849.

747. He was appointed on probation in September 1849; when was the appointment confirmed?—After the expiration of six months.

748. Before his appointment was confirmed did you report upon his services?—There was no official communication. I had a communication with Sir Francis Baring upon the subject, and a minute was made at the Admiralty for his approval, upon the former submission by me.

749. You did not write a report recommending that the appointment, having been probationary for six months, should then be confirmed?—That I am not positive of; I think it was done without. But it was with reference to the committee of revision, of which I was a member; I would ask permission to read a note made by Sir Henry Ward during the time the committee of revision went the round of the dockyards: "Woolwich master smith, too old. First foreman, too fond of drink." I mention that, because that was the man who was promoted afterwards. "The smithery is the most demoralised place in the whole dockyard; no discipline; no hours; the hours too short under the best system. No good heat is got up till nine or half past nine, and the fires are banked up at two o'clock." That is from a minute made by Sir Henry Ward and the committee of revision, of which I was a member.

750. That was made in 1848?—Yes.

751. That showed the bad system under which the smitheries were in 1848?—Yes.

752. Had you any subsequent report by any committee, showing the improved system; or did you report upon the improvement?—I do not know of any official document; but the improvement is so striking, that it is not like the same thing; and, to use Commodore Eden's expression, there is as much difference between the present condition of the smithery and what it was formerly, as there is between light and darkness. We were many years behind the private trade; there was no improvement in the smithery; our iron work was inferior and more expensive than in the private trade; and it was necessary to introduce the improvements that had taken place as to steam hammers, and to obtain men competent to work them. It was not to deprive the men in the yard of any just right of advancement; but shut up in the yard as they are from one year's end to the other, they are not aware of the improvements that take place in the private trade. In the case of the man at Portsmouth, no man in that yard was deprived of promotion; the master smith was superannuated, the first foreman was superannuated, and the second foreman was appointed first, and the man best qualified was appointed second foreman. The master smith was selected from the private trade, a man supposed to be competent, and had gained all the advantage from the improvements that had taken place. There is no competition in the dockyards as there is in the private trade; we are many years behind; but after the present men have got accustomed to working of these Nasmyth's hammers and other improvements, there will be no reason to introduce any person from the private trade; but it was considered as an advantage to the service and to the public that that should be done then.

753. The Nasmyth's hammers had only been recently introduced at that time?—No; my impression is, that they were introduced in 1847 and 1848.

754. Having found this so successful at Woolwich Dockyard, there being seven dockyards, was anything done in any of the other yards?—The master smith at Devonport was retired; there was an engineer officer there who was not necessary; he had for a time charge of the smithery, and when it was thought desirable to remove him, a man was selected from the private trade to fill the post of master smith. But the men in the yard were not deprived of their advancement; the master smith had been superannuated, from old age, and the foreman was reported unfit, and was retired; the second foreman was made first, and I believe the best man qualified was made second, so that the men in the yard were not deprived of their just rights of advancement, no man in the yard; and this person was appointed exactly under the same circumstances as Mr. Black.

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the master smith at Woolwich, on probation for six months; and at the expiration of that time he was confirmed master smith, and he is there at present.

755. How did that appointment answer at Devonport?—I never heard any complaint; the man has been performing the duty ever since.

756. Have you had any report from the superintendent upon it?— No report since the expiration of the six months; he was then recommended for confirmation.

757. In what year?—He was appointed in December 1851.

758. Had Mr. Ainslie worked in a private yard?—Yes, he had worked in a private establishment at Liverpool; if I mistake not, in the same firm as Mr. Black, of Woolwich. I think on that occasion Mr. Black was also applied to, to know if he could recommend any person.

759. Was any other step taken towards putting other dockyards in the efficient state that you say Woolwich Yard was raised to by the appointment of a man from a private yard?—No man in the yards, they being young men, was deprived of his right. The man at Chatham I considered a very fair workman. The man at Pembroke is not master smith, but the first foreman, with a salary of 200*l.* a year; he is a very good man, and was promoted a short time ago; he was promoted in January 1850.

760. Lord *Hotham.*] Is each yard supplied with Nasmyth's hammers?—There are several of them.

761. Some in each?—Yes, there was an immense number introduced in 1847 into the yards.

762. *Chairman.*] You say that you have had frequent communications with Admiral Hyde Parker upon the advantage of resorting to a private yard for the improvement of the smitheries?—Yes.

763. When Admiral Hyde Parker communicated to you the decision respecting the appointment of the master smith at Portsmouth, did he make that communication verbally or by letter?—My impression is, that he made it by letter, but not a public letter. I think he made it verbally also. I think the first communication was when I was out of town, by letter; and afterwards we were some time before we found a person to select.

764. Do you think that you could find the letter?—He alludes to that letter in the note I read yesterday.

765. Does he identify it by referring to that letter?—No further than he says, "I quite agree with what you stated about the master smith;" but I am not aware that it is possible to find the letter wherein he directed me to select a man.

766. That was at the end of August 1852?—Yes.

767. Having been so recommended to select a man, what course did you take?—I was out of town, and I wrote a note to Commodore Eden, I think, to say, that as his master smith came from the private trade, I wished to ask him if he knew of any person fully competent for Portsmouth; as it was a very important yard and a large establishment, and for some time we could not find a person. Then I wrote to Commodore Eden to know if his first foreman was a man competent. I had forgotten it was the same person; and his answer was, "No, he could not recommend him; he was a great deal too fond of drink." After some time Commodore Eden wrote to say that Mr. Black, his master smith, had heard of a person whom he considered fully competent; and I think that, a day or two after receiving that note, I went to Woolwich and saw Commodore Eden; and I said that, before any steps were taken, it was necessary we should know really whether the man was competent to fill the post of master smith at Portsmouth. I saw the master smith at Woolwich in the presence of Commodore Eden, and I questioned him respecting the man Wells; and his reply was, "If I am competent to do the duty at Woolwich, Wells is as good a man, if not better, than I am." I considered that satisfactory, and the man was ordered to attend at Somerset House. I thought that the best person qualified in my department to question him was the chief engineer, who had also been brought up as a shipwright officer, and had had smitheries under his notice, as well as being head of a factory. This was Mr. Lloyd, the head of the steam department; he was for some years the head of a factory at Woolwich. My questions to the man were general questions; but as far as his professional abilities were concerned he was examined by Mr. Lloyd, and reported by Mr. Lloyd as a fully competent person, that would perfectly answer to be master smith at Portsmouth.

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After that examination had taken place, I made the following submission to the Admiralty.

768. On what day did that take place?—I think it was on the 7th of September or the 8th. I think it must have been when I made the submission. "With reference to the accompanying letter from the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth, and to their Lordships' decision that an experienced master smith be appointed to Portsmouth Yard from the private trade, I beg to state that Mr. James Wells, who is in his 37th year, has been very strongly recommended as being well qualified for the charge of a smithery, and I therefore submit that he be appointed master smith at Portsmouth Yard, in the present vacancy; and that, as in the case of Messrs. Black and Ainslie, appointed respectively to Woolwich and Devonport Yards, under similar circumstances, he be entered on probation for six months, to be paid at the rate of 200*l.* a year, with the understanding that if, at the expiration of that period, his conduct and abilities should be found to be perfectly satisfactory, he shall be appointed master smith at the full salary of 250*l.* a year. I would also submit for the approval of their Lordships, with reference to the vacancy for a first foreman of smiths at Portsmouth, caused by Mr. Philip Steer being recommended for superannuation, that Mr. Willcocks, the second foreman at Portsmouth, be promoted to first foreman in that yard, as recommended by the Admiral Superintendent in the enclosed letter."

769. To whom was that letter sent?—That letter is a submission from the Surveyor of the Navy to the Board of Admiralty.

770. That was on the 9th of September?—Yes.

771. When were you informed of the appointment of Wells?—On the 10th.

772. The letter you have just read is not exactly the same as the Return, No. 271?—The last clause is omitted, because the correspondence was with reference to Wells; this was furnished by the Admiralty, and it appears that the last clause, respecting the promotion of the foreman, was not included.

773. Will you just read the last clause that is not in the printed letter, after the words "250*l.* a year"?—"I would also submit for the approval of their Lordships, with reference to the vacancy for a first foreman of smiths at Portsmouth, caused by Mr. Philip Steer being recommended for superannuation, that Mr. Willcocks, the second foreman at Portsmouth, be promoted to first foreman in that yard, as recommended by the Admiral Superintendent in the enclosed letter." The only way in which I can account for it not being there is, that it has not reference to Wells.

774. Did you furnish the copies when they were moved for in Parliament, or were they furnished from the Admiralty?—I think the copies were furnished by the Surveyor; most of those that were lost; none of those documents were to be found, and I think most of the documents were furnished by my department for the Chatham Election Committee.

775. Can you state whether that particular letter, namely, the letter of the 9th of September 1852, was furnished from your department?—It was; it was not to be found.

776. Was it furnished from your department complete, or did it stop short, as it is here, when furnished by your department?—That I am not prepared at this moment to say; but those papers must be in the record office at the Admiralty now. I furnished a copy of almost all the correspondence on that subject, because none of the papers could be found.

777. Did the Order of the House of Commons come to you for the Return forwarded by the Admiralty?—No, it did not.

778. In what way was the Return called for from you?—I was ordered, the evening before I attended the Chatham Committee, to attend the Committee as to the appointment of Cotsell to Portsmouth; and when I got to the Admiralty, I found that none of those papers were forthcoming; neither my submission as to Wells, nor my submission as to his appointment, which had a minute ordering him to be appointed; and I had to go to my office next morning, and I directed Mr. Eden, who is present, to go and get a copy of all those letters in my department, and those letters were taken to the Chatham Election Committee. I have an impression that those Returns were made out, and the copies furnished.

779. I find in the Report of the Chatham Election Committee, at page 131, there is an addition which is not in this Return; namely, after "250*l.* a year,"

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it goes on to say, "I would also submit for the approval of their Lordships with reference to the vacancy for a first foreman of smiths at Portsmouth, caused by by Mr. Philip Steer," &c. ?—The omission shows that it must have been at the Admiralty and not in my department evidently, but the clause must have been included in my copy from that circumstance. This, which I hold in my hand, is signed by the acting chief clerk, John Jones Dyer, at the Admiralty.

780. Your belief is, that the letter of the 9th of September was sent in in full by you?—That is my impression; and certainly it appears on that occasion it must have been; the letter as to the appointment is in this Paper.

781. You were informed of this probationary appointment on the 10th of September 1852, were you not?—Yes.

782. When did you hear again of Wells; did you have any account of his work, or of his fitness for the place?—No; I received a letter from the Admiralty, dated the 10th of September 1852: "My Lords have been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard; he is to be entered on probation for six months, and is to be paid at the rate of 200 *l.* a year, with the understanding that if, at the expiration of that period, his conduct and abilities shall be found to be perfectly satisfactory, he will be confirmed as master smith at the full salary of 250 *l.* per annum." That is addressed to "The Surveyor of the Navy, and the Accountant-general."

783. Is that the usual form of notification?—To the principal officers, it is.

784. After an appointment of that kind which was probationary, did you not request the superintendent to send you up an account, shortly after, of the conduct of the person and of his fitness for his situation?—The superintendent would feel it his duty, if he was not considered competent, to report it; but he could not be confirmed without a proper report from the principal officer and by the superintendent, that they considered him in every way competent to fill the place.

785. Does not the superintendent send up any monthly reports in which that would appear?—No.

786. When was the next report that you had as to Wells?—I had no report respecting Wells; it appears that he was dismissed from Portsmouth on the 2d of October 1852.

787. You first, then, heard of it after the 10th of September; was it on the 2d of October that he was dismissed?—He was; he came to town; I was absent from the Admiralty, visiting the dockyards, as appears from the documents in my office, on the 1st, the 5th, the 6th, the 7th, the 8th, the 11th, the 12th, the 13th, and the 14th of October. It appears that after Wells was dismissed from Portsmouth, he went to Somerset House in my absence, and he saw Mr. Lloyd, who had examined him, and Mr. Lloyd advised him to remain till my return. He came to me, I think, about the 15th or 16th of October, immediately after my return, and he pointed out to me what a very hard case his was; that he had been removed from a private trade, with the perfect understanding that, if he was found competent, he should have a permanent appointment. The man stated that he had done his duty in a satisfactory manner, and the officers could speak of the manner in which he had performed his duty; and he said, "As I was selected by you, I look to you to take up my cause, and redress the injury inflicted on me." I said I could only forward a memorial to the Admiralty. He said he had written a memorial; and I said, "If you bring it, I will forward it;" which I did, with the accompanying statement, and this is dated "Admiralty, 16th of October 1852." This is my submission, enclosing Mr. Wells' memorial: "In forwarding the enclosed memorial from Mr. James Wells, the late master smith of Portsmouth Yard, I beg to draw their Lordships' attention to the peculiar circumstances of his case, and to the following particulars respecting his appointment. When their Lordships decided, in August last, that the vacancy for a master smith at Portsmouth should be filled by the appointment of a competent person from the private trade, as had been done at Woolwich and Devonport Yards, Mr. Black, the master smith of the former yard, was consulted on the subject, and strongly recommended Mr. Wells, who had served with him in the same firm at Liverpool, as a man well qualified by experience and ability to take charge of a smithery. Mr. Wells was consequently directed to proceed to Somerset House, and was examined by myself and Mr. Lloyd, the chief engineer, as to his qualifications for the appointment, which were considered so highly satisfactory that I submitted for the approval of their Lordships that he should be appointed master smith at Portsmouth, and that the other vacancies at that yard for first

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and second foremen of smiths should be filled by the promotion of those qualified persons next in seniority in their respective grades. Their Lordships approved of this arrangement, by their Order, dated the 10th September, appointing Mr. Wells master smith, and Mr. Willcocks first foreman of smiths, in Portsmouth Yard. Mr. Wells immediately proceeded to that yard to take up his appointment, and during the time that he had charge of the smithery he gave universal satisfaction. Mr. Wells, however, was superseded in his appointment by Mr. Cotsell, the master smith of Chatham yard, being removed to Portsmouth, by their Lordships' Order of the 1st October; and being thus early deprived of his situation, without any notice or reason assigned, he is not only thrown out of employ but also put to great pecuniary loss, and naturally feels much aggrieved by such an unexpected and sudden removal. He was induced to relinquish his situation and prospects in the private trade for the more certain appointment in Her Majesty's service; and in consequence of having accepted that situation he now finds himself deprived of employment, and I feel, in a measure, personally responsible for the serious injury which, by the cancelling of his appointment, has been inflicted on this highly deserving individual, he having been engaged by me, although under their Lordships' sanction. I therefore submit his case as one of peculiar hardship for their Lordships' favourable consideration; observing, that Mr. Wells has been anxiously waiting in London for the last fortnight, in hopes of their Lordships' decision in reference to his future disposal." I may be allowed to say, perhaps, that I never heard of Wells. I knew nothing of him. It has been said that I was interested in his appointment; he was named merely by the master smith at Woolwich. I never heard of him before he was recommended by the officer at Woolwich. It was stated that he was a protégé of mine. Sir *B. Walker.* 29 April 1853.

788. *Chairman.*] Was he recommended to you by any private friend?—No; he merely brought his own documents from the firm in which he had served his time. I never had a private communication of any sort respecting him. To that submission I never received an answer; no notice was taken of it; but the man received the following letter, which he brought to me: "Admiralty, 18th October 1852. Sir,—I have received your memorial without date, and I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, that they are not aware that you have received any appointment from them, and that their Lordships do not considered you justified in designating yourself 'late master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Portsmouth;' they therefore return you your memorial. If, however, from any communication with any of the officers of the several departments, you have been led to expect such an appointment, their Lordships are prepared to give their consideration to any memorial from you on that subject; but my Lords cannot recognise you as late master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, as no warrant has been given to you by their Lordships for such an appointment. I am also to desire that in any future address to their Lordships you will state your address." That was enclosed to me, sealed, to be forwarded to the man, and that is the only communication I had on the subject.

789. You have stated that Mr. Wells had been asked some questions by you, but that he had been more specially examined by Mr. Lloyd?—Yes.

790. Have you any general system of examination in such a case that Mr. Lloyd would have recourse to?—No further than questions he would put to him from his experience in the smitheries, having been at the head of a steam factory where there are a great many smiths under him; the head engineer of the Government must be fully competent to decide whether the man was fit.

791. Would he ask him whether he was conversant with the forging of anchors?—That is a very doubtful question. All the anchors are supplied by contract; and it does not follow for a man who is to be master smith of a dockyard that that is a necessary qualification, although a most desirable one. They frequently make anchors, but they are almost all supplied by contract; if we have old ones to alter, that is done in the yard.

792. If he has to repair anchors, would the circumstance of being accustomed to other iron work fit him to forge anchors?—I should say, certainly, that a man at the head of a large establishment where there is iron work, has work to do equally as heavy as anchors. I have no doubt that the question was put to him by Mr. Lloyd. It was a professional question, which I did not enter into. I did not hear the question put to him, certainly; but when the chief engineer

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reported his opinion that he considered the man fully competent, I then made my submission.

793. Since when were the anchors supplied by contract?—They have been constantly supplied.

794. In the Dockyard Instructions of 1844 to the Master Smith, one of the notices is, "You are particularly to attend to the making and repairing of anchors; to see that the heats be made with great care, and that the welding be performed in a workmanlike manner, as you will be afterwards considered perfectly responsible for the goodness of the manufacture"?—Yes, no doubt; small anchors I know are made in the yard, but they are generally supplied by contract. I have no doubt that Mr. Lloyd, who had served as a shipwright officer in the dockyard, and was the head of the factory at Woolwich, must have asked him those questions.

795. It was a question of detail that you would have left to Mr. Lloyd?—Certainly. I mentioned the dates of my absence, because I was accused of allowing the man to remain a fortnight in London before I took any notice of his memorial.

796. You were absent at the different dockyards, were you not?—I was at Portsmouth, I think, and at Devonport.

797. As you were at Portsmouth, did you make no inquiries respecting this man, on probation there?—I heard from the officers that he gave universal satisfaction.

798. Did you then hear that he was gone?—Yes, he had gone then. It was on that occasion I asked if the man had performed his duties satisfactorily, and the answer I got was, that he had.

799. Did you hear that from the superintendent of the yard?—I have an impression that a change took place about that time, but I am not positive; from the shipwright officers, whose immediate department he belonged to, I had a favourable report. I do not recollect when the change took place at Portsmouth, but the Portsmouth yard was some time without a superintendent, in consequence of the superintendent being appointed to the Manning Committtee, and there was an acting superintendent.

800. Would the probationary appointment of master smith be made by the First Sea Lord, Admiral Hyde Parker, without the knowledge of the Board?—All the principal officers, I believe, are in the appointment of the First Lord; he appoints all the principal officers.

801. The master smith is in the appointment of the First Lord?—I should consider that it was in his department, certainly, but of course under the advice of the senior Naval Lord, who has the working of the dockyards; they are strictly under the senior Naval Lord, who is answerable for the equipment of the fleet. I am hardly prepared to answer the question as to the routine of the Admiralty; it frequently changes; it does not affect me in any way.

802. The regulations of 1847 provide, that men who are once in the service should rise by merit alone?—Yes.

803. Was there any exception in that case, indicating that persons from private yards would be brought in, to prevent men who were in the service regularly rising?—No. Sir Henry Ward, who drew out the regulations in 1847, was the first person to propose that the master smith should be so appointed to the Woolwich dockyard.

804. Was that after his regulations?—Yes; he proposed it in 1849. The regulations were in 1847. I think that Commodore Eden's submission was on the 30th of August 1849.

805. Was not that proceeding on the part of Sir Henry Ward rather a violation of his own regulation of 1847?—He certainly did not consider it so; it was done for the good of the public service, in consequence of the state that our smitheries were in. It must have been in 1848 that Commodore Eden received the order to select men from the private trade.

806. You do not consider that the regulation of 1847, which stated that men should rise by merit, was in any way infringed by the introduction of persons from private yards?—I should consider not, when it was absolutely necessary for the good of the service that a person should be selected who was accustomed to Nasmyth's hammers, and acquainted with all the improvements which, within these few years, have been introduced into private smitheries. But, as I stated before, the men of the yards were not deprived of their just rights; they were advanced;

advanced; the second foreman was made first, and the best man was made the second.

807. One place was filled up, and filled up by a stranger, not by a person from the yard. As far as that went, did it not interfere with the regular promotion from the lower ranks?—Not in that yard, but in the yards generally.

808. But that introduction having been already made at Woolwich and at Devonport, you did not consider it any infraction of the regulation its being repeated again at Portsmouth?—No, I did not consider it an infraction, because it was absolutely necessary to improve the smitheries, as great complaints had been made; it was not that the Admiralty wished to deprive them of their just right of advancement.

809. When men were to be promoted in the yard, were they also examined in the smithery; would there be an examination of the person to be promoted?—The master shipwright would, with the master smith of the yard, examine a man before his name was submitted; but they would speak of his qualifications from what they had observed of his work generally in the yard.

810. It is provided in this letter of Sir Henry Ward, respecting the master smith, that the master smith with a salary of 250 *l.* a year, ought to be a man of some education; would there be before promoting a man an examination, to see that he was so?—An examination is not pointed out in that circular; that is the rule they go by in the examination of all the officers in the yards; as long as he could read and write, I should think that was all that was necessary, if he was a good practical man.

811. On the 16th of October you forwarded that letter, enclosing the memorial of Mr. Wells?—Yes.

812. Did you receive any answer to that?—No, I did not.

813. To whom did that letter go?—It went in the usual way to the Admiralty.

814. To the Board?—Yes.

815. It was not addressed to anybody?—No; it was in the general way that these communications are sent; they go to the Board, to be sent to the proper department, whichever it may be.

816. You forwarded the memorial in that way, without directing it to any one?—They are generally addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty as public documents.

817. As you selected Mr. Wells in accordance with Admiral Hyde Parker's recommendation, did you communicate with Admiral Hyde Parker on the subject of Wells's removal from his position?—I did.

818. When was that?—I think it was on the 2d of October. On the 1st of October, Cotsell was appointed as master smith of the Portsmouth Yard; and on the same day William Smale, foreman of the smiths in Woolwich Yard, was appointed as master smith in Chatham Yard, which appointment was forwarded to Commodore Eden on the 2d of October; and I think Commodore Eden came to me from Woolwich with Smale's appointment, and asked how it was that he was appointed to Chatham, and whether it was not a mistake. I expressed my surprise at hearing that it was in the room of Cotsell, who had been removed to Portsmouth, as I had not heard anything upon the subject. Commodore Eden went then with me to the Admiralty, and saw Admiral Hyde Parker, and showed him this appointment; and he said it was impossible, for it was only the day before that Mr. Stafford had expressed to him his wish that Cotsell should be removed to Portsmouth, and he told him that it should not be done. This conversation took place and was addressed to me, Commodore Eden being present, by Admiral Hyde Parker. We both went to the Admiralty with Smale's appointment. Admiral Hyde Parker said it was impossible, for that it was only the day before, in the Board-room, that Mr. Stafford had requested him to give in the point about Cotsell going to Portsmouth; and he said that he would not hear of such a thing. He had been superintendent of Portsmouth Yard; and when Cotsell was promoted out of it, he said it was not desirable that he should go back to a yard where he had served in a junior grade. He said there must be some mistake. I said, "Here is the official document," and it stated that Cotsell was to go to Portsmouth. Admiral Hyde Parker was very much annoyed; and he said, "If this is the case either Mr. Stafford or I will leave the Admiralty." That was said in the presence of Commodore Eden.

819. Sir *B. Hall.*] And to you?—Yes; I think that was the 2d. Commo-

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dore Eden said, that he had received that morning Smale's appointment. Smale's appointment was dated the 1st of October. Admiral Hyde Parker was going out of town, I think, the following day, and I saw him the next morning, and pointed out to him the injury that would be done to the man that was removed from Portsmouth. He said he would write immediately to the Duke upon the subject; and, by the letter that I read here yesterday, he states, that he pointed out how improper it was that Wells should have been removed, and Cotsell appointed to Portsmouth.

820. This having occurred on the 2d of October, did you see the First Lord of the Admiralty upon the subject?—No, I did not; I think he was absent in Northumberland.

821. Did you see any of the other Lords of the Admiralty upon the subject?—No, I did not. Admiral Hyde Parker was my immediate chief, and to him I addressed myself.

822. What was the next information you received upon the subject of the appointment to the smithery at Portsmouth?—I do not now recollect that I received any communication from that time, further than the letter that I read yesterday, till Wells came to me after he had been removed from Portsmouth.

823. The Committee are referred to the circular of 1847. Under the circular of 1847, when Cotsell was recommended for appointment, if he had been recommended by the superintendent of the yard that recommendation would have gone straight to the Admiralty, and from the Admiralty would have been forwarded to the Surveyor?—Yes.

824. Would it have been considered for promotion if forwarded in that manner under the circular of 1847?—Yes; it was usual to send for the Surveyor's opinion on all removals and promotions.

825. Will you state whether, in cancelling the circular of 1849, the custom was reverted to which was usual under the circular of 1847, as to Cotsell?—I must explain. When I became Surveyor, Sir William Symons had been some time absent from the department, and the routine had not been carried on in the manner it was some years before; the reason why that circular of September 1849 was issued was, that some papers had got into the wrong channel, and instead of coming direct to the Surveyor, they came some to the Admiralty, and some to the Surveyor. I mentioned this to Sir Francis Baring, and he, in consequence, ordered that circular to be sent. When that circular was issued, every paper, I may say, during the whole of the time that Sir Francis Baring was in office, came to the Surveyor for his opinion with reference to removals, appointments, or vacancies in the yards; but in the case of Cotsell, I was not consulted at all.

826. Before 1849, if such a promotion had taken place as that of Cotsell, should you, under the circular of 1847, have had an opportunity of giving your opinion upon it?—I should say so; papers were sent to me in many instances, I cannot be positive that they were in every instance, but they were in most instances; and I always made submissions as to the promotions in the dockyards.

827. Have you ever seen a report respecting Cotsell's knowledge or fitness for his place?—There was a favourable report sent by the officers at Portsmouth, when removed from Portsmouth a short time ago.

828. As you have frequently been at Chatham, and received reports from Chatham, had Cotsell ever been brought under your notice?—He had performed his duty in a very satisfactory manner.

829. Had he been at Chatham, attending to the management of any Nasmyth's hammers?—He must have done so; but at Chatham, we have an engineer over the metal mills who has a good deal to do with all those steam hammers; but Cotsell must have had experience of them, because they were, I think, introduced into the yard in 1847.

830. At page 129 of the Report of the Chatham Election Petition Committee, in the evidence of Mr. Robert Bell, the witness is asked, at No. 3616, "Have you a letter with reference to that application, signed by Mr. Stafford?—I have a minute for the letter. Read it?—'18th of October 1852. Write according to the following to Mr. Wells, returning him his memorial (keeping a copy), and enclose the letter, sealed, to the Surveyor of the Navy, requesting he will forward it to Mr. Wells.'"?—Yes.

831. That was apparently on the 18th of October?—Yes.

832. That

832. That was forwarded to you from the Admiralty?—Yes.

833. That was a reply to the memorial which you had forwarded on the 16th of October?—I suppose it was.

834. I understood you to say, that you had received no reply?—I received no reply: I merely received a letter sealed, with this man's name on it; I did not know the contents of the letter.

835. You received the letter, and a request to forward it?—Yes; the man's name, without an address.

836. In regard to those examinations at Somerset House, is any record kept of them?—There is not; although it is now established that an examination should take place, it is only within the last two months that the regulations have been established by an Order in Council; it is decided that the examinations of the higher grades are to take place at Somerset House; before that it was at the dockyards.

837. Was Wells examined at the dockyard?—No, he was examined at Somerset House.

838. Was any record kept of his examination?—The only record was the submission which I made to the Admiralty.

839. Is there no minute of it?—No, it was not customary. I am anxious to be allowed to enter into some explanation as to the evidence I gave before the Chatham Committee: it appears by the printed evidence, at Question 3419, "Take those documents in your hand," the documents were handed to me (a copy of my submission to the Board with reference to Wells' memorial): "Is that the letter accompanying the memorial?—Yes, that is the copy of the letter accompanying the memorial." In that letter I stated that "Mr. Wells was consequently directed to proceed to Somerset House, and was examined by myself and Mr. Lloyd, the chief engineer, as to his appointment." Then, in another part of my evidence, there appears to be a contradiction. My impression is that there is an omission, and that I never could have put this in as a document, stating that he had been examined before me, and two or three minutes afterwards stated that I had never seen him before he was dismissed from Portsmouth Dockyard. That is in the 124th page, Question 3524. I am anxious to make this explanation, as it was mentioned against me in the House of Commons. I was frequently asked questions before they were written down, and I was frequently asked to repeat my answers; and there must have been evidently an omission, for I never could have put in the document as a record, and immediately state that I never saw the man. The answer ought to have been this: "That I am not aware of; I never saw Wells from the time of his examination till after he had been dismissed." To the best of my recollection that is what I stated; I could hardly be accused of contradicting myself (I had never given evidence before upon oath) by putting in a document one moment, and then answering as I am reported to have answered. The Committee will see the immense number of omissions and mistakes. I will read, as an example, the mistakes in page 123. Question No. 3511: the question put to me was, "Who made the announcement of his appointment to Wells?" and the answer is, "He was ordered to be discharged from Portsmouth." There is no sense in that. And here is "No" written for "Yes;" "office" written for "appointment;" "this" instead of "these;" "Woolwich" instead of "Sheerness;" "Sheerness" instead of "Woolwich;" "fireman" instead of "foreman;" "then" instead of "this," and repeated mistakes. I was under the impression that my evidence would have been sent to me for correction, and I declare that I never read that evidence until the charge was brought against me in the House of Commons; I never read my evidence over till that evening.

840. In 1848, that being an inquiry into the navy, the evidence you gave was sent to you for verbal corrections?—Yes.

841. And you imagined that this would have been sent in the same way?—Yes; I never gave evidence on oath before in my life. I was wrong in not having read my evidence before.

842. Mr. *Beckett.*] You enclosed Wells's memorial to the Admiralty?—Yes.

843. Would that memorial necessarily come under the notice of the Lords of the Admiralty, or be referred to the Secretary?—I am hardly prepared to answer that question. I think it went to the Secretary.

844. Would it be, in the common course, brought under the consideration of

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the Lords of the Admiralty?—It does not follow; if it was of an important question it would most likely; but if not, it would be disposed of in the department, whichever department it belonged to.

845. You cannot tell the Committee whether the answer that was given by the Admiralty to Wells on the 18th of October, was given on the responsibility of the Secretary, or by the authority of the Lords?—Further than the information that was given me by Admiral Hyde Parker, that he never heard of such a thing as the memorial, and that it was not brought before the Board. I think it might be easily decided to see whether it was a Board minute; that would decide the question.

846. Sir *B. Hall.*] Did Admiral Hyde Parker ever give you to understand that it was ever brought before the Board?—I understood not; that he was not aware that it had ever been brought before the Board.

847. *Chairman.*] In selecting Wells from the private trade for the appointment at Portsmouth, you proceeded, as I understand you, merely on a verbal communication, or a private letter of Admiral Hyde Parker?—Yes, I had both. I had a private letter, and also a verbal communication directing me to select a man.

848. Was it usual, with regard to an appointment of such importance as that, to direct you to select a man by a letter that you could not keep officially as a record?—I do not think that it follows; the decision depends upon the term of the appointment; the person is approved of. I receive, of course, many important verbal communications that are not put in writing, and I act upon them; but then the responsible parties are those to whom I make the submission upon the subject.

849. Did you consider the letter of the 10th of September 1852, from Captain Hamilton, as sanctioning the course you had taken in making your selection?—Yes, it was in answer to my submission; my submission was on the 9th; and on the 10th I received, and also the superintendent at Portsmouth received, an official communication, announcing Mr. Wells's appointment on probation for six months.

850. You stated, did you not, that it was considered inexpedient to send back Cotsell to Portsmouth, where he had formerly been?—That was the objection that Admiral Hyde Parker made, as he was promoted out of the yard when he was superintendent. He asked my opinion, and I gave my opinion, which was the opinion of the committee of revision from the evidence taken during our inquiry, that whenever a promotion took place, it was desirable that a man should not be promoted in the same yard, if he was one of the principal officers, but that he should be removed from that yard where he had performed duty in any junior grade, that he might have more control over the men. That was the opinion of the committee of revision.

851. Was that opinion recorded in their report?—My impression is that there was some remark; I cannot say at this moment that it was so; I have no doubt it was in the minutes made by Sir Henry Ward.

852. Was that rule generally acted upon?—It is, whenever it is possible.

853. On the 27th of January 1853, there is a letter, signed W. A. B. Hamilton, to Mr. James Wells, stating that it is the intention of their Lordships to replace him in the situation of master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard?—Yes.

854. When were you acquainted with that replacement?—I was present at the Board when they came to that decision, but I do not see any public document here. I was questioned at the Board; and after the inquiry, Sir James Graham having gone into the case, and the man having sent a memorial for remuneration for the loss he had sustained, Sir James Graham and the Board of Admiralty decided that the man was to be reinstated, and that the other appointments were to fall back as they were originally.

855. You say, "after full inquiry;" was that inquiry made at the Board on that day, or had there been previous inquiries?—There had been for several days before. I had been asked several questions upon the subject, to know how it was Sir James Graham asked me to relate the particulars, and the Board had gone fully into the question. When I say that I was present at the Board when that decision was come to, it was a Board at Somerset House, and I furnished the names of the men who had been promoted on that occasion. There is always a Board once a week at Somerset House, and it was on the occasion of the Board being there that the decision was come to for the men to fall back.

856. You

856. You say that some inquiries took place before this decision was come to?—Yes.

857. Can you state the nature of that inquiry?—I was asked for the particulars. Sir James Graham inquired as to all the particulars.

858. Was any inquiry made from Mr. Lloyd?—No; I am not aware that there was.

859. Was any inquiry made from the Superintendent of the Dockyard at Portsmouth?—I do not think there was; my submission, stating that the man had given general satisfaction, I believe, was before the Board.

860. You stated that he had given general satisfaction; from whom did you receive that information?—The officers in the Portsmouth Dockyard, on visiting it in the beginning of October.

861. Verbally, or by writing?—Verbally.

862. You stated that Wells was up to this time waiting in London?—I cannot say the exact day he returned to London, but I found him in London on my return, which I think was on the 15th of October; he left London, and was absent at Liverpool; he left London soon after he received that answer.

863. When he came back from Portsmouth, he remained in London, as I understand you?—He remained either in London or at Woolwich till my return, which I think was about the 15th of October, and then I forwarded his memorial.

864. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] In obedience to the Admiralty Order of February 1847, I presume you consider it your duty, in recommending any person for promotion, first to select or give the preference to any one already in the service?—Certainly, if they are competent in every respect.

865. Before recommending Wells, had you taken pains to ascertain whether there was any one already in the service, in any of those yards, fit for the appointment of master smith?—I had on two occasions inquired of Commodore Eden whether he could recommend Smale. There was a man at Chatham, 64 years of age, and rather feeble; and he was considered too old a man to be advanced; he was the senior first foreman. The next was Smale, at Woolwich; and I, on one or two occasions, asked Commodore Eden his opinion of the man; and his answer was that he did not consider him a man that ought to be advanced; he was too fond of drink. On referring to the minutes, as to Smale, I find I am borne out in what I read just now. The next man is a man at Deptford; he was promoted in 1847; the first foreman. The next is Venning, a man promoted in 1850; that is, at Pembroke, of very short standing. The next is Truscott, promoted in 1851. The next is Willcox, promoted in 1852. If I had been called upon to submit the name of any man for promotion, as most deserving and best qualified, I should have submitted the name of Venning, now at Pembroke, who has a salary of 200*l.* a year, which is 50*l.* higher than any other foreman in a yard, because there is no master smith. The first foreman is at the head of his department; and having been put in that appointment, he was considered the best person for it; it was his right, from his position, having a larger salary than the others.

866. What was the date of the first appointment from the private trade?—In 1849; Commodore Eden's submission is the 30th of August 1849, and the person proposed to be entered as master smith was appointed on the 5th of September 1849.

867. That has worked very well, has it?—Most satisfactorily.

868. Between 1849 and 1852 did no subordinate in the smithery department qualify himself sufficiently for becoming master smith?—I am hardly prepared to say that; it was considered, with regard to the large Nasmyth's hammer, and the great improvements introduced, our smitheries being so far behind, advisable to introduce people who could improve them.

869. *Chairman.*] You stated just now, did you not, speaking of Smale, that he was rather addicted to drinking?—It was stated on two occasions by Commodore Eden, and also in the words of the minute during the visit of the committee of revision; the officer's opinion expressed to that committee is, "Master smith too old;" that is the man who retired when Mr. Black was appointed in September 1849: "Foreman too fond of drink;" that is Mr. Smale.

870. That is in 1849?—No, in 1848: "The smithery is the most demoralised place in the whole dockyard; no discipline, no hours."

871. Did you concur in this recommendation of Captain Hamilton as to Mr. Smale?—

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Smale?—It was a general thing decided at the Board, that all those were put back as they had been advanced; that their cases should be taken into consideration when an opportunity offered. That was done in the general way, as to the three who were put back.

872. At page 10 there is a letter written to you by Captain Hamilton; and at the end of it is: "And Mr. William Smale as foreman of smiths to Woolwich Yard, but to be noted for favourable consideration on the first vacancy for a master smith"?—Yes, that his case should be taken into consideration whenever there was a vacancy; that was done in the general terms of the decision come to by the Board.

873. Was that forwarded to you?—In informing me of the removal, it was addressed to me and to the Accountant-general.

874. Did it receive an answer from you?—No; I am bound, when there is a vacancy, to bring his case forward.

875. Sir *B. Hall.*] Did you, in any of your submissions to the Board, recommend Mr. Smale to the favourable consideration of their Lordships?—I am not aware that I did, at this moment.

876. Lord *Hotham.*] Was Smale made aware of the expressions that had been made use of?—I think he was.

877. Would he not, in consequence of that expression, have been naturally led to suppose that he would be promoted?—I should think there would be full inquiry into his conduct, and if found worthy he would be advanced.

878. I mean unless he should prove unworthy since the receipt of it?—Yes, quite so; but the Admiralty had no alternative; they must either have removed the man or have had two master smiths.

879. *Chairman.*] There were several others, besides Smale, who suffered from this replacement of Mr. Wells, were there not?—Yes, there was a foreman; I think Bailey was put back too, who was a foreman at Sheerness. Bailey had been promoted from Woolwich to Sheerness, and returned to Woolwich, his former place.

880. Then this man suffered equally with Smale from the change?—With this exception; it was only a removal; Mr. Forbes was the foreman at Sheerness, and this man was only removed to Woolwich, not promoted. But it was Bailey who had been promoted from Woolwich to Sheerness, and, of course, lost his appointment.

881. Reverting to the circular of 1849, when that circular was adopted, was it adopted upon your recommendation?—It was in consequence, as I stated before, of papers having got out of the regular channel, and I found that papers had been acted upon by mistake. I pointed this out to Sir Francis Baring, and he came to a decision directly, and he sent that circular to insure every paper going to the Surveyor direct.

882. The circular of 1849 was framed, was it not, from your suggestion of its necessity?—Yes, I pointed it out. I have an impression that I made a submission upon the subject.

883. You spoke of the committee of revision making certain recommendations; do you know whether its proceedings are recorded at all?—Yes; it was a private report, which I believe is in the possession of the First Lord of the Admiralty, and of the Members of the Board.

884. Was it in 1848, before the committee sat, or after?—It was in 1848, just after the committee. I think it was in consequence of that committee that led to it.

885. It has never been laid before Parliament?—No. There were many recommendations in it that have since been carried out.

886. When you saw Mr. Wells after his dismissal, did he then show you any document appointing him to Portsmouth?—No; I do not recollect that he showed me any appointment; he showed me his discharge from Portsmouth, which says he was master smith. The papers are, I think, included in the Paper 271, p. 9; it is signed by the storekeeper. It is a form: "I hereby certify that Mr. James Wells," &c. He showed me that document. He is styled, "Master Smith (on probation), per Admiralty Order, 10 September 1852;" and he is discharged on the 2d of October 1852.

887. Then the only documents that Mr. Wells had with him, were those documents at page 8, of No. 271; the documents numbered 1, 2, and 3; namely, a letter signed "Walter Eden," No. 1; another letter signed "H. C. Miller," No. 2,

No. 2, and a letter signed by the storekeeper?—Yes; those documents he had with him. Sir *B. Walker.*

888. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Did you give Mr. Wells either the original letter, or a copy of the letter from the Admiralty to you on the 10th of September, appointing him?—No, I am not aware that I did. 29 April 1853.

889. When he went to Portsmouth, he must have some document to show that he was appointed?—He had a note which was signed by Walter Eden, saying that he had been appointed; and the superintendent of the yard had also received an Admiralty Order announcing his appointment, which is as follows, in the second page: "Admiralty, 10th September 1852. My Lords have been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard; he is to be entered on probation for six months, and to be paid at the rate of 200*l.* a year, with the understanding that if, at the expiration of that period, his conduct and abilities shall be found to be perfectly satisfactory, he will be confirmed as master smith at the full salary of 250*l.* per annum. By command of their Lordships. (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.* To the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth."

890. On presenting himself at Portsmouth, what happened?—Showing that he was the person by the document, that was considered sufficient.

891. Is it usual to issue warrants when appointments are made?—I think there are acting warrants made out.

892. For officers on probation?—I think that is the case. I have an impression that that was done, though the man never got it; I think if the Committee refer to the evidence given before the Chatham Committee, they will find that his warrant was made out, but not sent to him.

893. *Chairman.*] How would he obtain entrance into the yard; would a letter be sufficient?—It appears that that letter was considered sufficient, because he entered and performed the duty.

894. The letter signed by Captain Hamilton to the superintendent?—Yes.

895. Is that the usual way in which persons are admitted?—I should say it was; the same notice was sent to the surveyor and to the Accountant-general.

896. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] That would be tantamount to a warrant, would it not?—Not an actual warrant; but announcing, in an official shape, that this man had been appointed.

897. Lord *Hotham.*] How soon after would he get his warrant?—The usual way is to forward the warrant to the superintendent's office, at whatever yard he is in.

898. Beforehand, or immediately he is appointed?—It would be a letter from the Admiralty; that I think is the usual way. He would receive a letter, announcing that he had been appointed, and he must proceed to take up his warrant.

899. You think that the receipt of that letter was tantamount to an officer taking up his commission?—Yes; that is the usual way with officers.

900. They have to go and take it up before they assume any command?—Yes, certainly.

901. Mr. *Beckett.*] It appears that Cotsell stayed a very short time at Portsmouth: you had no reason to be dissatisfied with his services?—They were reported as very satisfactory by the master shipwright and the officers at Portsmouth.

902. *Chairman.*] There is among those papers a paper, No. 343, containing the warrant, dated 27 January 1853, signed Dundas and Milne, appointing Mr. James Wells to be acting master smith at Portsmouth. Is this the form of warrant that he would have received for a probationary appointment, or the form of warrant that he would receive after the probation was over?—I think, on being appointed on probation, he would receive that warrant.

903. He ought to have received this in the first instance, as he did in the last, ought he not?—I should say so. I think, in the evidence given before the Chatham Committee, it will be seen that that warrant was made out, but it was put on one side.

904. Under this, do you consider Mr. Wells to be now on probation?—Yes; he is still on probation.

905. His six months would have been up had he continued there?—Yes.

906. In the evidence given before the Chatham Committee, there is somewhere a reference to the loss of this warrant?—Yes.

[The Witness withdrew.

Mr. *N. Houghton.*

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Mr. *Nelson Houghton*, called in; and further Examined.

907. *Chairman.*] HAVE you there the Board Minute Books, which contain any minute of the 18th of October 1852?—Yes.

908. Will you refer to that date, and see what minute there is respecting the dockyard at Portsmouth?—(*The Witness referred to the Minute Book.*) There does not seem to be anything in the Board Minute Book, but there is one in the General Minute Book.

909. Is there nothing in the Board Minute Book?—No.

910. What is there in the General Minute Book?—A minute made on a memorial from James Wells. "Memorial of James Wells, requesting compensation in consequence of not being confirmed in the situation of master smith, Portsmouth. Write according to following minute, to Mr. Wells, returning him his memorial (keeping a copy), and enclose the letter sealed to the Surveyor of the Navy, requesting he will forward it to Mr. Wells: 'My Lords are not aware that you have received any appointment from them, and they do not consider you justified in designating yourself "late master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard, Portsmouth;" they therefore return you your memorial. If, however, from any communication with any of the officers of the several departments you have been led to expect such an appointment, their Lordships are prepared to give their consideration to any memorial from you on that subject, but my Lords cannot recognise you as late master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, as no warrant has been given to you by their Lordships for such appointment.' Desire Mr. Wells, in any future communication to the Board, to add his address."

911. By whom is that signed?—I cannot say; we do not keep any record of who signs each distinct minute. The book is signed at the end of the day, but each minute may be signed by a Lord or a Secretary: I do not make any record here of who makes the minute.

912. That is in the General Minute Book?—Yes.

913. Was that minute made at the Board?—That I cannot say; it came to me as a general minute.

914. Lord *Hotham.*] What became of the original?—It is in the record office at the Admiralty, after being executed at the department to which it belongs.

915. *Chairman.*] Is that minute confirmed in any way in the other Minute Book?—I can see no trace of it. I, as only an executive officer, put the minutes into the books as they are sent to me; every Board minute is stamped with the stamp, "Admiralty Board Minute." I use no discretion; I merely act according to the stamp on the minute.

916. Lord *Hotham.*] Do some come down stamped, and some not stamped?—Yes, some are not stamped, and they go into the General Minute Book.

917. *Chairman.*] An entry may be made in the General Minute Book of minutes, not being Board minutes?—The very fact of their being in the General Minute Book implies that they are not Board minutes.

918. Therefore they may be made by the Secretary of the Admiralty?—Exactly.

919. Or by a single Lord?—Yes.

920. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Is there any account in the Board Minute Book of this general minute having been approved of?—By referring to the original document it might show that.

921. *Chairman.*] Have you the minutes of September 1852?—This takes in the whole of September.

922. Will you refer to the 10th of September, and see whether there is any minute referring to the appointment of Mr. Wells?—Yes; here is a notice made in the General Minute Book of the appointment of Mr. Wells: "The Surveyor submits, that Mr. James Wells, from the private trade, be appointed master smith at Portsmouth Yard in the present vacancy, and that he be entered on probation for six months; and that Mr. W. Willcocks, second foreman, be promoted to be first foreman, as recommended by the Superintendent." "Approved."

923. That is not signed in any way, is it?—It is signed; the whole of the Minute Book is signed by Captain Hamilton. I presume this minute was signed with the initial of somebody, or I should not have considered it a perfect minute when it came to me.

924. That is not in the Board Minute Book?—I find it in the General Minute Book. Mr. *N. Houghton.*

925. Lord *Hotham.*] Then it would not be in the other?—It would be very unlikely that such a thing could occur, I think. 29 April 1853.

[The Witness withdrew.

Robert Bell, Esq., called in; and Examined. *R. Bell*, Esq.

926. Sir *B. Hall.*] ARE you a Clerk in the Admiralty?—Yes.

927. Were you examined before the Chatham Election Committee?—Yes.

928. Do you recollect the appointment of Mr. Wells?—Yes.

929. Do you remember a letter being sent to the Surveyor of the Navy, in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells?—I did not send it; it was done in another department by mistake.

930. Do you find that any minute was made of the recommendation?—A minute was made for the appointment, which I saw afterwards, after those letters were sent to the Surveyor and to Portsmouth Yard.

931. When did you see that minute?—I saw it about five days afterwards; I cannot state exactly the day.

932. Do you know what became of it?—I wrote a letter, addressed to James Wells, and an acting warrant, appointing James Wells upon that minute, and it was then sent to the record office, as I believe; that was the last I saw of it.

933. It has been stated in a letter, dated the 18th of October 1852, which has been read to the Committee, that the Lords of the Admiralty could not recognise Mr. Wells as master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, as no warrant had been granted to him by their Lordships for such appointment; are you aware that a warrant of appointment was made out?—I made it out myself.

934. Do you know what became of that warrant of appointment after it was made out?—It was sent up for signature; the warrant to be signed by two members of the Board and the Secretary, and the letter to be signed by the Secretary alone; neither of those letters were afterwards seen by us; they were not signed, and they did not come down to my department.

935. How do you know that it was sent to the Secretary or to two Lords?—I write it; it goes to the head of my department, and he sends it up; he has informed me that he did send it up.

936. Who is that?—Mr. Jesse.

937. He has informed you that it was sent up to the Lords or to the Secretary?—Yes.

938. Is that the only warrant that was necessary for the actual appointment of Mr. Wells, on probation?—Yes; if signed and sent down to the yard, that would constitute, as I consider, his appointment. There is some doubt whether the acting warrant is necessary or not, as in former cases it has been found that acting warrants have not been made out, but only a letter; at all events, he received neither from the Admiralty.

939. If that warrant had been signed after you had sent it up for signature, it would have been the actual appointment, on probation, of Mr. Wells?—Certainly.

940. *Chairman.*] On what day did you make out the warrant?—I cannot say to a certain day; about five days after the 10th of September.

941. When you made out the warrant, it was made out ready for signature, was it not?—Yes.

942. What was the course to be taken with the warrant after that?—To send it up to the Board-room to be signed by two Lords and the Secretary.

943. Did you send it up to the Board-room?—The head of my department did.

944. He sent it up to the Board-room?—Yes.

945. Sir *B. Hall.*] Is he here?—No.

946. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] By whose direction did you make out the warrant?—I received a note on the day on which I made out the warrant, I believe from Mr. Eden, the Surveyor's secretary, in which he states that the appointment had been made, but that Mr. Wells had had no notice of that appointment. Upon this I went to the record office, and got out the minute, and this was the first time I saw it. I then saw that it had been executed in a wrong department. Upon that, supposing that the appointment was intended to go forward, I made out a notice of appointment and acting warrant to complete the appointment, which had not been before completed.

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947. Sir *B. Hall.*] Who was the Secretary in town at that time?—Captain Hamilton. Mr. Stafford was at that time in the Mediterranean.

948. Lord *Hotham.*] The document that you found in the record office was a sufficient authority to make out the warrant?—Certainly.

949. The usual authority?—Yes; had the Secretary been here, we should have made inquiry why the minute had not been signed by him, these appointments being in his charge.

950. In consequence of his absence, you felt justified in treating it as a sufficient authority to make out that warrant?—Yes. No communication had been made to us as to who had the charge of these appointments in Mr. Stafford's absence.

951. Mr. *Beckett.*] To whom would Mr. Jesse deliver the warrant which you had made out?—It would go by a messenger in a case to the chief clerk in the office, and from him be sent up to the Board-room.

952. Mr. Jesse said that he did that?—Yes.

[The Witness withdrew.

Octavius Barrington Piers, Esq., called in; and Examined.

O. B. Piers, Esq.

953. Lord *Hotham.*] IN what department are you at the Admiralty?—Connected with Parliamentary business.

954. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you know anything of any papers in relation to the appointment of Mr. Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard?—Yes.

955. Will you state what knowledge you have of them?—I have seen the original submission of the Surveyor of the Navy, recommending Mr. Wells for the appointment of master smith.

956. When did you see that?—It was on the occasion of the warrant; and also, the letter addressed to Mr. Wells, acquainting him of his appointment coming before Captain Hamilton for signature. When he saw those papers, that is, the letter and the warrant, he said, "Who could have appointed Mr. Wells master smith? I know nothing at all about his appointment." He then desired me to get the original minute appointing him, which I obtained for Captain Hamilton, from the record office, I believe; and when Captain Hamilton saw that the Surveyor's submission was minuted by Admiral Parker, he said, "Admiral Parker was not authorised to make this minute," and after consulting with Sir Thomas Herbert, a Lord of the Admiralty who came into the room at the time, they agreed that it was better to keep it over till Mr. Stafford returned from the Mediterranean (he was expected back the following week), as it was well understood that dockyard appointments were vested in Mr. Stafford.

957. You saw the warrant of appointment?—Yes, I saw it prepared; it was not signed.

958. It was ready for signature?—Yes.

959. Were the papers given into your hands?—Yes, by Captain Hamilton.

960. Were you desired to keep them until Mr. Stafford's return?—Yes.

961. Then what did you do with them?—On Mr. Stafford's return I gave them either to Mr. Stafford or to Mr. Grant; I am not certain which.

962. Can you recollect in which room in the Admiralty you gave them to anybody?—I cannot recollect positively. I was in communication with Mr. Grant, in his room, and with Mr. Stafford in his room just about the time, transferring a variety of papers, but I considered it immaterial to which of them I gave them. If I gave them to Mr. Grant, it was for Mr. Stafford.

963. About what time did you hand over those papers, either to Mr. Stafford or to Mr. Grant?—I think it was on the day, or the day after Mr. Stafford returned to the Admiralty.

964. At what date was that?—I cannot recollect the date.

965. What month was it?—I really made no note. Mr. Stafford will recollect. I know it was immediately after his return to the Admiralty. I think some time in September.

966. Is that all that you know with respect to those papers?—That is all.

967. Have you ever seen any of them since you gave them either into the hands of Mr. Stafford or Mr. Grant?—No, I had nothing to do with them after that time.

[The Witness withdrew.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of the House; Examined.

A. Stafford, Esq. M.P.

29 April 1853.

968. *Chairman.*] HAVE you heard the evidence given by Mr. Piers respecting the minute that was missing?—Yes.

969. Can you give the Committee any information upon the subject?—I will put in a letter which I wrote to the present First Lord of the Admiralty on the 20th of April 1853: "My dear Sir,—I did not quite understand last night, in the House of Commons, what was the missing document to which Admiral Berkeley referred in his speech; but I see by 'The Times' of this morning that it is the submission of the Surveyor of the Navy, recommending Mr. Wells, &c., September 9th, 1853. I most distinctly remember receiving that document. To the best of my belief, the letter of submission in Parliamentary Paper 271, page 1, is an exact copy of it, and I am quite willing to state this in the House of Commons." I thought it afterwards better not to raise the question in the House of Commons during the discussion as to the Committee; but as it seemed to affect the character of Mr. Barrington Piers and Mr. Grant, I am anxious at once to take the blame or responsibility upon myself.

970. Are you aware whether the warrant for the appointment of Mr. Wells was made out?—No. I believe it was never made out, to the best of my belief.

971. Can you state whether it had been made even, without reference to whether it had been signed?—I knew it had never been signed. Mr. Piers stated, I think, that it had been made out; and I stated in my place in the House of Commons, that the warrant was stopped when the appointment was doubtful; of course, it never would have been right to send a warrant to a man when there was a doubt as to his appointment, and therefore the appointment was never signed, nor the letter, and without it was mere waste paper.

972. Do you recollect receiving a warrant of appointment not signed, but ready for signature?—I cannot say that I do. I dare say it was with the papers. There is not the least responsibility resting upon Mr. Piers or Mr. Grant; the whole rests upon me; they did what they ought to have done.

Lunæ, 2° *die Maii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Sir Benjaman Hall.
Lord Hotham.	Mr. Beckett.
Sir Henry F. Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *George Cotsell*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *G. Cotsell.*

2 May 1853.

973. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation do you hold?—I am a Master Smith.

974. How long have you held that situation?—Seven years, come June next.

975. Are you master smith at Chatham?—Yes.

976. What were you previously to your appointment as master smith?—I was first foreman of smiths at Devonport Dockyard.

977. How long were you in that situation?—Two years.

978. Before that time, what situation did you hold?—Second foreman of smiths at Portsmouth Yard.

979. How long were you at Portsmouth?—Altogether, about 22 years.

980. In the service?—Thirty-one years in the service; about 23 years in Portsmouth.

981. You have been 23 years in the service at Portsmouth?—Yes.

982. Sir *B. Hall.*] Did you reside in Chatham during the late election?—Yes, I did.

983. Did you take a part in that election?—A humble part.

984. Did you attend meetings?—I attended some meetings.

985. Did you canvass any voters?—None.

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986. Do you know a person named George Bonney?—Yes, I do.

987. Do you know whether he had a vote at the last election?—I believe he had.

988. Do you know how he voted?—I believe he voted for Sir Frederic Smith.

989. Did you go to his place of residence at any time?—Never.

990. Did you ever canvass him for his vote?—Never. I should explain with regard to that question and that answer; that on one evening, when about to proceed to the drill at the dockyard, I met Bonney proceeding to the same duty, and I took occasion on that evening, (having understood that Bonney was undecided,) to ask him if he had promised the Admiral his vote; and he said no, he had not promised. I then said, "How do you mean to vote?" He said, "I shall vote for Sir Frederic." I then left him, to proceed to the drill, and nothing more transpired.

991. Were you not at his place of residence on or about the morning of the polling?—No.

992. You were not?—No. I have no idea where he lives at all, except that he lives at New Brompton. I knew the fact, but I never was at his house.

993. How many meetings did you attend in favour of Sir Frederic Smith?—There was only one meeting which I should call in favour of Sir Frederic Smith, which was held at the Sun. There were evenings passed in what is called convivial meetings, when the electors generally met; it was the custom in Chatham, on both sides, for the electors to meet here or there, at a certain house on a certain evening, sometimes two or three times a week. I have attended those meetings, but they were simply convivial.

994. Did not you ever attend meetings at which you made speeches in favour of Sir Frederic Smith?—The speeches to which reference can be made by that question, I suppose, would only apply to speeches of this kind: perhaps in the meeting some one was deputed to propose the health of the gallant candidate, and sometimes it has fallen to my lot to do so, and I have on such occasions taken very great pleasure in proposing the health of Sir Frederic Smith.

995. As a candidate for the representation of Chatham?—Exactly.

996. Did you see the late Secretary of the Admiralty in the dockyard at Chatham at any time, in company with Sir Frederic Smith?—Yes, once; Sir Frederic Smith was in company with other gentlemen.

997. Who were present besides?—The storekeeper, the master shipwright, and Mr. Laurie, the chief engineer.

998. Has the storekeeper a vote?—I do not know.

999. Has the master shipwright a vote?—I do not know.

1000. Or Mr. Laurie?—I do not know.

1001. Had you any conversation with Mr. Stafford in reference to your promotion or removal from Chatham to Portsmouth?—I had.

1002. What took place?—When he passed through the smithery, and I had an opportunity of catching his ear for a moment, I took the opportunity of reminding him I had made an official application, through the Captain Superintendent, for a removal to Portsmouth, and that I trusted that my standing and claims would entitle me to the favourable consideration of their Lordships, whenever the case came to be decided upon. Of course the object I had in view at the time was, as I had been many years in the service, and as I was the senior master smith in the service, and as I considered I had a claim, my object simply was to request the Secretary of the Admiralty the favour of being remembered, when an opportunity came, to fill up the vacancy.

1003. What did Mr. Stafford say to you in reply to that?—His remarks, as far as I can recollect, from the time that has now elapsed, were to this effect, that my claims, whenever the case came to be decided on, should have their due consideration.

1004. Did you ever mention to anybody that Mr. Stafford had promised you an appointment?—No further than that which I took to be essential and valuable, inasmuch as I considered, that if my claims through the Secretary had due consideration, believing that I was well supported in other quarters, there was no fear of my having the appointment.

1005. Was impression left on your mind that you were to have the appointment?—I should most decidedly say, so far as the answer went, that it gave me every reason to believe that I should have the appointment.

1006. Did

1006. Did you ever tell any person that Mr. Stafford promised you the appointment?—I am not aware that I have done so.

1007. Did you ever give any person reason to understand that Mr. Stafford had promised you the appointment?—No farther than that I had reason to suppose that I should have the appointment from the favourable manner in which my remarks were received by him; I never had a direct promise any more than I have now asserted.

1008. Did you ever see the appointment of a person named Wells in the "Times" newspaper at Portsmouth Dockyard?—I think I did.

1009. Did you go to the Admiralty after seeing that?—I am hardly aware whether I went to the Admiralty on seeing that, or whether, on receiving a letter stating that that appointment had been made, but I went to town on that appointment being made.

1010. Did you receive a letter informing you that Mr. Wells had been appointed to the Portsmouth Dockyard?—Yes.

1011. From whom did you receive that?—I think some one at Portsmouth.

1012. Do not you remember whom it was from?—Not exactly; for the fact is, I received a vast number of letters on the occasion. After my arrival at Portsmouth, considering everything settled, I destroyed a vast number, and of course I destroyed most of those I had received from Portsmouth, which I did not conceive of any very great value.

1013. Did you ever receive any letter from the Admiralty, or any person connected with it, in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells?—I received a letter from a friend of mine on that subject.

1014. Who was it?—I beg to ask, before I answer it, whether I am bound to answer that question, inasmuch as the friend or gentleman I have not had any means of communicating with; and my only motive for not answering direct is, that I may not be considered as committing myself to my friend.

1015. *Chairman.*] Is he an officer in the public service?—Yes; he is a gentleman connected with the Admiralty.

1016. Sir *B. Hall.*] I must ask you that question; who was the person connected with the Admiralty that wrote you that letter?—Am I to understand it advisedly that I am bound to answer that question, because I have no means of knowing myself whether I am absolutely bound to answer a question of that kind; but I have no scruple upon my own part; my feeling arises from that of delicacy, from fear of committing any friend of mine.

1017. *Chairman.*] It is your duty to answer questions put to you by the Committee?—I should consider that it was my duty to answer those questions, as far as they concern myself; and I should have no objection if I had the means of communicating with my friend, to see whether he would have any objection to my answering it.

Chairman.] It is a question connected with the public service, and the Committee cannot wait until you have communicated with your friend. According to the practice before Committees, you must proceed to answer the question without communicating with your friend.

1018. Sir *B. Hall.*] From whom did you receive that communication?—From Mr. Piers.

1019. Is that Mr. Piers, the clerk in the Admiralty?—Yes.

1020. What did he inform you?—That the appointment of Mr. Wells had been suspended, and until the return of Mr. Stafford nothing would be done; something of that kind was the purport of the letter.

1021. Did Mr. Piers inform you that he had any authority for making this communication?—None.

1022. Did you afterwards go to the Admiralty?—I went to the Admiralty subsequently to that.

1023. Whom did you see when you went there?—I saw Mr. Piers.

1024. In what room of the Admiralty did you see Mr. Piers?—I presume it was his own room; I am not sure.

1025. Was it a room in which there were several clerks, or a room in which he was alone?—I think at the time there was only myself, as far as my memory serves me.

1026. Had you any conversation with him at that time in reference to the

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appointment of Mr. Wells at Portsmouth?—At that time I was appointed master smith myself to Portsmouth, and I was on my way to Portsmouth.

1027. Had you any communication with Mr. Piers upon the subject of the appointment of Mr. Wells to Portsmouth, and previously to your own appointment to Portsmouth?—No.

1028. You had not?—None.

1029. Were you at the Admiralty previously to your appointment as master smith to Portsmouth?—As I have before observed, I went to the Admiralty on seeing the appointment, or hearing of it, of Mr. Wells.

1030. Whom did you see when you went to the Admiralty, after hearing of the appointment of Mr. Wells to Portsmouth?—No one.

1031. Did you go to the Admiralty and return without seeing any one?—Except a messenger.

1032. For whom did you inquire when you went to the Admiralty and saw a messenger?—Mr. Piers.

1033. Did you see Mr. Piers again before you were appointed?—No.

1034. Did you see anybody connected with the Admiralty before being appointed master smith at Portsmouth?—Never.

1035. It has been stated that you went to the Admiralty, and that you there saw a gentleman with whom you were acquainted, and that the warrant appointing Mr. Wells, was lying on the table in the room at the Admiralty; is that true or not?—Not true.

1036. You never told anybody that you had been at the Admiralty, and that you there saw the appointment of Mr. Wells lying on the table, and that you were then informed that your appointment would be made out?—No.

1037. You are quite sure of that?—Quite sure.

1038. What communication had you from any person connected with the Admiralty between the time that you saw the appointment of Mr. Wells in the "Times," newspaper, or that you were informed of the appointment of Mr. Wells, and your own appointment at Portsmouth?—The only one is that to which I have referred, announcing that the appointment of Mr. Wells had been suspended.

1039. *Chairman.*] You stated that before you were at Chatham, you were for two years at Devonport?—Yes.

1040. Have you taken any part in the elections at Devonport?—Never.

1041. Before that you were for 22 years at Portsmouth, were you not?—Yes.

1042. Did you take any part in the elections at Portsmouth?—No.

1043. Never?—Never.

1044. Have you voted?—Never.

1045. You never voted before you came to Chatham?—Never; it is a singular fact connected with my history, that I had been for 25 years occupying houses from 12 *l.* to 30 *l.* a year, and it never so happened by any chance that I was called upon to exercise the right of voting until 1852, at Chatham.

1046. And at Chatham you voted for Sir Frederic Smith?—I did.

1047. Had you been previously acquainted with Sir Frederic Smith?—For about six years I had known him, as one of the chief officers of the engineering department at Chatham.

1048. From your acquaintance with him during that period, you took an interest in his election?—I did. I must observe as to that, that so far was my determination to support him; so free, unfettered, and unbiassed was that vote, that without waiting for him to canvass me, almost the first moment he stepped into Chatham, I saw him canvassing down the High-street of Brompton; I was about to go to the dockyard, afternoon time, and I waited until he came out of a shop, and tendered him my vote, telling him at the same time "You need not call upon me; reckon upon me as one of your supporters."

[The Witness withdrew.

Mr. *Thomas Scott*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. T. Scott.

1049. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—In Chatham High-street.

1050. What is your business?—I am Relieving Officer of the Medway Union.

1051. Sir *B. Hall.*] Are you acquainted with Mr. Cotsell?—Yes.

1052. How long have you known him?—About five years, I think.

1053. Had you any conversation with him in reference to the late Chatham election?

election?—On several occasions we have met and spoken upon the affair, but being on opposite parties, we never had much communication together. Mr. T. Scott. 2 May 1853.

1054. Had you any conversation with him a short time ago, before he left Chatham and went to Portsmouth?—I had a conversation with him between the time that a dinner was given to him by his political friends and the time of his leaving Chatham, and it could only have been a few days before he left Chatham that I met him.

1055. During that conversation did he say anything to you in reference to his appointment as master smith at Portsmouth?—It was alluded to.

1056. What did he say?—I had been bantering him a little about being done out of the situation, or, at least, about Mr. Wells being appointed. I congratulated him upon the appointment afterwards, and said I was very happy to think he had got it; and he said, "Well, now it is all over, I do not mind telling you how it occurred;" he said, "When I saw the account in the paper, or heard of it, I immediately started," or "cut," I think was the term used.

1057. When he saw what?—The appointment of Mr. Wells; he said, "I cut up to London, and I went to the Admiralty, and saw a friend of mine there." He said, "I happened to nick the time in going, for the fact of it is, the appointment was made out, and my friend said, 'Well, we are just in time, for here is the appointment.'" And he said his friend took the appointment, and put it in his pocket, and said, "You will hear no more of it; you will be all right, old boy."

1058. You are sure that he said that to you?—Quite sure.

1059. Did he mention the name of any person he saw at the Admiralty?—He did not; he designated the party as his friend.

1060. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] He did not name any one?—He mentioned no names.

1061. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you know whether Mr. Cotsell canvassed any votes?—I did not see him canvass any votes.

1062. You have no knowledge of Mr. Cotsell having canvassed?—I never saw him canvass.

1063. *Chairman.*] You stated, did you not, that you belonged to the party opposed to Mr. Cotsell?—Yes.

1064. Had you taken an active part in politics too?—Yes.

1065. Did you vote at the election?—Yes, I did.

1066. For whom did you vote?—For Admiral Sir James Stirling.

1067. Had you at previous elections taken an active part at Chatham?—Yes.

1068. For the same party?—Always the same party.

1069. Lord *Hotham.*] As taking an active part at former elections, you will probably be able to state whether any of the persons employed in the dockyard took an active part at former elections?—I do not think that any officer of the dockyard belonged to any of our committees, or anything of that kind.

1070. Still did you obtain any assistance in those committees; did you look upon them as useful aids in forwarding your views?—Certainly not; the dockyard officers were generally against the party I espoused, with the exception of one or two, and they did not take an active part.

1071. As regards the dockyard men, how was it with them?—The majority of them were against us, generally; they generally went with the Government candidate, and I generally went against them.

1072. You have occasionally been on the side of the Government candidate?—Then we seldom had an opposition; if so, it was futile.

1073. How many elections have you taken a part in?—I have taken a part in every election since the borough has been enfranchised.

1074. How many contests have there been?—The first was Perry and Maberley, the next was Byng against Beresford, and then Byng and Ching, and I think this last one was the only other.

1075. The candidate whose name was Byng, I think, held an office under Government during a part of the time he was Member for Chatham?—Yes, but I first voted for Lord Enfield when he came down as an independent Member.

1076. Am I not right in saying that during a part of the time he represented Chatham he held an office under Government?—Yes, but the contest was a very futile one; it was Lord Dufferyn, I think, who opposed him, and he stood the contest only about half a day.

1077. Are you prepared to say that on those occasions when the party in power were of the same opinions as yourself, that Government influence was never

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called into requisition?—I do not know that it ever was. I never knew of any Government influence being used.

1078. Could it have been used without your knowing it?—It could have been, certainly.

1079. It has been reported by the Chatham Committee that on almost every occasion the Government candidate has prevailed, and that result is supposed to have been in part, at any rate, attributable to Government influence; do you concur in that opinion?—Yes, I do. I think the hope of reward, and perhaps the fear of losing the chances of promotion, have induced men, in a great measure, to act sometimes on the one side, and sometimes on the other; that is, just whichever way the Government happened to be. May I be allowed to say, as to this conversation with Mr. Cotsell, I should be very sorry it should be thought for one moment it was in any way a private communication; it was not spoken as a private communication at all; it was spoken in that spirit that I considered he did not care if I knew, or all the world knew it; otherwise it would not have escaped my lips to any one. I mentioned it a few days after I heard it, to some friends.

1080. Sir *B. Hall.*] You mean the communication he made to you in reference to his going to the Admiralty, when he stated that he saw the papers on the table, and detailed the circumstances that took place?—Yes; and within two or three days I mentioned it to several of my friends, saying what an extraordinary proceeding it was, and so on.

[The Witness withdrew.

Mr. *John Ollis*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Ollis.*

1081. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation do you hold?—I am Conductor of the Metal Mills, in Chatham Dockyard.

1082. How long have you held that place?—I was appointed in October 1845.

1083. Had you been in the public service before 1845?—At Portsmouth.

1084. In what situation?—As foreman in the metal mills.

1085. How long altogether have you been in the public service?—I entered it in 1805. I came in with the business; when the business was first established.

1086. Since 1845 you have been at Chatham?—Yes.

1087. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you know Mr. George Cotsell?—Yes.

1088. How long have you known him?—I knew him at Portsmouth.

1089. Have you known him some years?—Yes.

1090. Had you any communication with him in reference to his appointment to Portsmouth?—No; Mr. Cotsell and I did not join the same party; therefore we had very little communication with each other.

1091. He did not make any communication to you as to his appointment?—No.

1092. Did he take an active part in the late election?—I believe he did; I never was with him.

1093. *Chairman.*] Did you take an active part in the late election?—None whatever.

1094. Did you vote?—Yes; I gave my vote, and that was all.

1095. For whom did you give your vote?—Admiral Stirling; I never spoke on the occasion; I cannot say that I have not attended any meeting; I have been in the room to hear what was advanced.

1096. Mr. *Beckett.*] Does political party feeling run high at Chatham, independently of the Government yard?—They are a little warm on the subject, I believe; more so than what they are in many other places.

[The Witness withdrew.

Octavius Barrington Piers, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

O. B. Piers, Esq.

1097. Sir *B. Hall.*] YOU are a Clerk in the Admiralty, are you not?—Yes.

1098. You have heard the evidence of Mr. Cotsell?—Yes.

1099. He stated that you sent him a communication, and that it was in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells?—Yes.

1100. By what authority did you send him that communication?—On my own responsibility; Mr. Cotsell having previously communicated to me privately, that he

he had made an application for transfer to Portsmouth; and when I found that Mr. Wells's appointment had been suspended by the authority of Captain Hamilton and Sir Thomas Herbert, I wrote to tell him that he was to be under no apprehension on account of what he saw in the papers; that the whole thing had been suspended.

1101. Have you a copy of the letter you sent?—No; I never thought anything more about it, and I had almost forgotten that I had written to him.

1102. Are the Committee to understand that you took this step without any authority at all from any person connected with the Admiralty?—Yes, without any authority whatever.

1103. Did you see Mr. Cotsell at the Admiralty?—To the best of my recollection, I did; but I thought that Mr. Cotsell had made a mistake as to the time at which he saw me. To the best of my recollection, I saw Mr. Cotsell before he was appointed; that was after Mr. Wells's appointment had been suspended, and before he was appointed himself, to the best of my recollection; I will not be positive upon that point.

1104. You state that you wrote to Mr. Cotsell?—Yes.

1105. Did you make a communication to him in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells?—Yes.

1106. Did you, after that communication, and before the appointment of Mr. Cotsell to Portsmouth, see Mr. Cotsell or have any further conversation with him upon that point?—My impression is that I did see him.

1107. Where did you see him, if you saw him?—It was in Mr. Grant's room; for at that time I was officiating for Mr. Grant, who was private secretary to Mr. Stafford; in his absence I was officiating for him, and I acted for him in making the communication to Mr. Cotsell.

1108. Where was the appointment of Mr. Wells at that time?—It was in my keeping.

1109. Where?—On the table; but Mr. Cotsell certainly did not see it, because the warrant of the appointment and the letter were altogether; there was probably a packet of papers as large as that (*pointing to some printed Evidence*), under a lead; and I did not open the papers, and he did not see anything. I said, I had got the papers in my keeping, and nothing would be done till Mr. Stafford's return.

1110. You mean the warrant of appointment of Mr. Wells?—Yes, the unsigned warrant.

1111. The unsigned warrant of Mr. Wells was amongst those papers lying on the table?—Yes.

1112. Were those papers moved from the table during the time Mr. Cotsell was in the room?—Certainly not.

1113. Will you state all that passed between Mr. Grant, yourself, and Mr. Cotsell, with reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells, and in reference to those papers lying on the table?—Mr. Grant was in the Mediterranean at the time; I met Mr. Cotsell by accident, as well as I can recollect, in the passage of the Admiralty; he came up to me, and said he was in great distress at seeing the appointment of Mr. Wells. As far as I recollect it, he said, "I have been led to expect that I should be transferred to Portsmouth" (for it was no promotion, it was merely a transfer): "As the Surveyor of the Navy had written to a friend of mine, and had expressly stated that he would lend me all the assistance in his power to effect my removal;" and therefore he said he had relied upon the promise of the Surveyor of the Navy, and he was greatly disappointed when he found that Mr. Wells had been appointed to Portsmouth. I then told him that he need be under no apprehension about it; that the whole thing was suspended until Mr. Stafford's return.

1114. When he stated that the Surveyor of the Navy had written a letter to a friend of his, did he mention the name of the friend?—No, he did not; but he said he had seen the letter. I think I understood him to say, that the Surveyor of the Navy had written to his friend; I think he said so.

1115. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You have been so circumstantial with reference to this conversation, that you can have no doubt that you did see Mr. Cotsell at the time you state?—I saw him, and my recollection is, that it was before Mr. Stafford's return.

1116. It surely must have been before Mr. Stafford's return, if, in that conversation, you said that everything was to stand over till Mr. Stafford's return?—Yes, I say

O. B. Piers, Esq. I say so; the impression upon my mind is very strong, that Mr. Cotsell made a mistake.

2 May 1853. 1117. You heard his evidence, did you not?—Yes. I have not had any communication with him; but it struck me that he was under a misapprehension when he stated that it was after his appointment. I think it was before his appointment.

[The Witness withdrew.

Mr. *George Cotsell*, called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *G. Cotsell.* 1118. Sir *B. Hall.*] YOU have heard it stated by Mr. Piers that you told him that the Surveyor of the Navy wrote a letter to a friend of yours, respecting your appointment or removal to Portsmouth Dockyard?—Not wrote a letter.

1119. Did you hear him state that the Surveyor of the Navy wrote a letter to a friend of yours in reference to your appointment or removal to Portsmouth Dockyard?—Yes; I heard him state so.

1120. Is that the fact?—No; but I can explain how that misapprehension arises with regard to that letter; the fact is, I received a letter with reference to a communication made from the Surveyor of the Navy to a friend of mine as to that appointment, and therefore the mistake is easily made between a letter from a friend of mine stating what the Surveyor might say, and that of the Surveyor himself. I should be prepared to explain as to this matter thoroughly with regard to the position of affairs connected with my appointment to Portsmouth, and I should do so, I think satisfactorily to this Committee, by stating that from the very date of my appointment to the Chatham Dockyard in 1846, I had been induced to hope that whenever a vacancy occurred at Portsmouth I should go there; and if it were not intruding upon the Committee, I should very much feel disposed to relate the circumstances which induced me so strongly to seek after and to hope for that appointment.

1121. *Chairman*,] There was no increase of pay upon going to Portmouth?—None.

1122. You had lived for many years at Portsmouth, and would rather live there than at Chatham?—Yes; and moreover I considered there was a point of honour in going back to Portsmouth, and I trust that point of honour will never be entirely subverted in the service. I conceive that one of the first objects that a man can aspire to is, to be master smith where he has served his apprenticeship; and I can safely say that I never lost sight of that from the moment I came out of my time. A most curious incident occurred on my coming out of my apprenticeship, that very day seven years on which I was first entered, never having lost an hour, the master smith, when I went to have my certificate signed, took me by the shoulder and placed me in his chair, and said, "Cotsell, never rest satisfied until you sit there as master smith;" and I have had the satisfaction of sitting there as master smith, in that identical chair. I may say that I have endeavoured, as far as my abilities went, to obtain that through merit and zeal; and I have done, perhaps, as much as in me lay to insure the good opinion and good will of all those under whom I have served. I have received occasional communications through the Somerset House department for the last five years, that whenever a vacancy at Portsmouth occurred, I should have it, or at least that I should be well considered; for five years I could show by the correspondence, that I never once lost sight of the opportunity of going to Portsmouth, up to the very moment of Mr. Wells's appointment. I have relied with the utmost confidence in the support of both departments, Somerset House and Whitehall; and I conceived it a matter of great injustice to me, without any cause assigned (though now several causes have been assigned, all of which appear to be rather important); I thought it a great hardship that I should have been passed over when there had been so many opportunities of acknowledging my merits from both departments, Whitehall and Somerset House.

1123. Sir *B. Hall.*] What was the name of your friend who made this communication to you?—He is a relation of mine, on my wife's side.

1124. Who was he?—Thomas Collings, Esq.

1125. Does he hold any office?—He holds an office in Somerset House, in the Accountant-general's department.

1126. What did he say to you?—He had been the means of communicating to the Surveyor my wishes as to Portsmouth, and he communicated the result of those

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those interviews or intercessions, which were favorable, leading me to suppose that I had the support of the Surveyor of the Navy in that behalf. I wish to have an opportunity of saying something as to the evidence of Mr. Scott. I had not heard it previously, and I wish to call the attention of the Committee to the improbability of my having made a confidant of Mr. Scott.

1127. *Chairman.*] The Committee cannot go into that?—Having heard the statement of Sir Benjamin Hall in the House of Commons, my brother was sitting beside me, and I said at once that is not true as to Scott. I never, I believe I may safely swear, communicated such a fact to Mr. Scott; but I said to my friend, sitting on my left hand, that has oozed out, something similar to that has been communicated; it has oozed out through a friend of mine. It is said, I have no doubt, on his behalf; strange to say this was Tuesday night, and on Thursday I received a letter from a friend of mine, an attempt having been made to connect this friend of mine with a report, in corroboration of Mr. Scott's statement, which letter I have here in which he invalidates or repudiates the entire substance of the matter.

1128. *Chairman.*] You say that though you did not say so to Mr. Scott, yet it oozed out through some other friend?—The report is partly true; that part of it which refers to my going to town; but as to having seen a person in town or having seen the papers, I never saw one or the other; for it so happened the day I went up, my friend was not at Whitehall. I was not introduced into any room, neither did I see any papers; but what I knew of the papers was that I heard that they had been suspended, or the appointment suspended, and the papers handed over until the return of Mr. Stafford; that is how that part of the question came out.

[The Witness withdrew.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, called in; and further Examined.

Sir B. *Walker.*

1129. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any further statement that you wish to make to the Committee?—I was in possession of these letters (*producing the same*) at the time I made my statement; but I had not then authority to read them. I have now that authority, and, with the permission of the Committee, I will do so. This is an extract of a letter from Commodore Seymour, dated 27th of April 1852: "Devonport Dockyard. We have a foreshadowing in this yard of a return of the corrupt and dishonest practices of the past; the policy of our late excellent and most respected chief," alluding to Sir Francis Baring, "that so largely sustained and encouraged officers in my situation, is cast aside, and I confess to a sense of humiliation." That is, as to the promotion of labourers, which I mentioned in my evidence. I have also permission to read a letter from Captain Richards, the Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard, dated the 9th of April 1852: "My fears point to the same direction as yours. In the Ridgeway case there can be no mistake, and if it be persisted in, the Order of the 27th February 1847 must be consigned to the tomb of all the Capulets. The order for the promotion runs, 'Joseph Ridgeway, second-class man in the metal mills, is to be appointed acting first-class man in the existing vacancy.' Now, as he is a second-class leading man, I can only understand it as to be acting first-class leading man, for which there is a vacancy, which the said Ridgeway wants, and reports have been current in the yard for some weeks that he would get it. My letter of the 1st of March recommended an entry from private trade 'as neither of the inferior leading men are competent for this position.' Ridgeway is one of these inferior or second-class leading men; and if he carries his point, he will be raised to a station for which his officers declare him to be incompetent; and even more, that he is not best of the men we have. In 1849 he tried his hand at a political rise, through Portsmouth influence, and was put to rights by Sir Francis Baring's order, narrowly escaping dismissal. Under these circumstances I have put the order in my desk and written to Mr. Stafford, privately and confidentially, stating the whole affair quietly, but I hope firmly. There is an immense stake on the issue; for if we are beaten we shall be overrun by a swarm around us, who are promising everything in the yard to their friends. I have no difficulty in saying that it would be far better to pension Ridgeway on 100*l.* a year than to promote him after all that has passed, which is publicly known in the yard." I may mention as to the announcement of Mr. Wells's appointment at Portsmouth, it was stated that the letter was without date. A copy of the letter has been submitted, and it appears that it was dated

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the 13th of September, from Mr. Eden. There is also a letter of Mr. Black accompanying it.

[*Two Letters were handed in, and are as follow:*]

Sir, Admiralty, Somerset House, 13 September 1852.

I AM desired by Sir Baldwin Walker to acquaint you, that their Lordships have been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Yard; and he requests you will communicate this to Mr. Wells, in order that he may make arrangements to take up his appointment.

I am, &c.

Mr. G. Black, Master Blacksmith, Woolwich. (signed) *Walter D. Eden.*

Sir, Woolwich Yard, 30 April 1853.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday, and enclose copies of seven documents left by Mr. Wells, observing that the originals are in his possession. The copy marked No. 1 is, I think, the one you refer to.

I have, &c.

Walter D. Eden, Esq., Admiralty, (signed) *G. Black,* Master Smith.

1130. You received both those letters, as I understand, before you wrote to the Duke of Northumberland on the 10th of May?—Both; but I had no authority to read them when I made my statement; since that I have obtained that authority.

[The Witness withdrew.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of The House; further Examined.

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1131. *Chairman.*] HAVE you heard the evidence which has been given in this room?—Yes.

1132. Have you also received a copy of the evidence?—Yes; one on Saturday, and the other on Sunday.

1133. When were you appointed Secretary of the Admiralty?—I think it was the 3d of March. As the Committee were kind enough, in a previous instance, to allow a statement to be read on the part of the Surveyor of the Navy, perhaps they will permit me the same indulgence, and then I shall be glad to be examined upon it.

1134. You were appointed on the 3d of March?—I think it was.

1135–6. Had you ever previously held any official situation?—Never. Sir Baldwin Walker's first statement has reference to a conversation he had with my private secretary, Mr. Grant. I shall content myself with stating, that I did not send Mr. Grant to Somerset House on the errand that Sir Baldwin Walker describes; and I shall leave Mr. Grant to speak for himself as to what actually did occur on that occasion. The first circumstance referred to that bears a date, is my letter of the 2d of April 1852. I was induced to write that letter, I have no hesitation in saying, in consequence of the receipt of repeated communications, that the appointments and promotions in the dockyard took a direction invariably hostile to the existing Government, and I therefore wrote the letter which the Committee have already had, but which I wish to put in now: "Dear Sir Baldwin,—I find that great dissatisfaction exists among my political friends, as to the present arrangement of appointments and promotions in the dockyards, as there is a very general impression that all those things are dispensed among our political opponents, insomuch that there seems no alternative but to resume the system which existed previous to September 1849. I need not tell you, that no one considers the blame, if blame there be, to rest with you; but you are thought too far removed from politics altogether to understand the small intrigues which go on in these places. For myself, I hate the notion of patronage altogether, and the change of the existing arrangement would only expose me to perpetual annoyance and trouble; but in any case, your wishes would always have great weight with me. In the perfect frankness with which I now state the case, and ask your opinion, I hope you will perceive the sincere respect with which I remain, dear Sir Baldwin, yours, &c. *Augustus Stafford.*" I may, perhaps, be permitted to call the attention of the Committee to the last paragraph

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paragraph of that letter, as showing that, whether I was right or wrong in the political part of the question, at all events it was written with no unkindly or discourteous feeling to Sir Baldwin Walker. This letter, I thought, was alluded to in Sir Baldwin Walker's public despatch of the 21st of April 1852; but Sir James Graham having said in the House of Commons, that Sir Baldwin Walker alluded in his public despatch to a private conversation, and not to a private note, I wish to correct myself in that particular, and to assure Sir Baldwin Walker that I accept the explanation; but I may be permitted to request the permission of Sir Baldwin Walker, as I have put in my letter, which was under a misapprehension, now to put in his answer to it.

Sir *Baldwin Walker.*] I have not the slightest objection.

This is the answer of Sir Baldwin Walker to my letter of the 3d of April. "My dear Sir,—In reply to your letter respecting the great dissatisfaction which exists among your political friends, as to the present arrangement of appointments and promotions in the dockyards, I can only refer you to their Lordships' circular of the 27th November 1847, by which you will perceive that, unless these regulations are withdrawn, and fresh ones substituted, advancement on political grounds is totally impossible, if the superintendents of the dockyards perform their duty. It is needless for me to disclaim having favoured any political party, for you will clearly perceive, on reading the existing regulations, that merit alone can obtain advancement. With reference to that part of your letter in which you state that there seems no alternative but to resume the system which existed previous to September 1849, I have to observe, that it was only reverting to a system which had always been in force prior to 1845, and was then discontinued, I have reason to believe, on personal grounds. It is for their Lordships to decide whether they will rescind the order of September 1849, which has been the means of causing an annual reduction in the wages of the dockyards of upwards of 10,000 *l.*; but if it is, of course the Surveyor will be deprived of that control which is so highly necessary, and can no longer be held responsible for keeping the establishments under the Estimates. I have now stated the case frankly, and I beg you to believe me, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours, *Baldwin Walker.*" I was anxious to put in this letter, because there had been, on several occasions, a confusion between the dockyard regulations of 1847, which were not altered, and the circular of 1849, which was cancelled.

1137. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] What is the date of that last letter?—The date is, Somerset House, the 3d of April. I have the very high authority of the Surveyor of the Navy, stating that "unless the regulations of 1847 are withdrawn, and fresh ones substituted, advancement on political grounds is totally impossible, if the superintendents of the dockyards perform their duty." It seemed to me, therefore, that the question was considerably narrowed, and that it had merely resolved itself into one of finance. He states afterwards in this letter that the Surveyor could not be held responsible for keeping the establishment under the Estimates. I believed that I could watch over the Estimates, with the assistance of the Accountant-general; and as Sir Baldwin Walker stated, that if the officers of the dockyard did their duty, promotion upon political grounds would be impossible, under the arrangement of 1847; and as I believed that the officers of the dockyards would do their duty, and as I still believe they did do their duty, I agreed with Sir Baldwin Walker that promotion on political grounds would be impossible. I may mention that the officers to whom Sir Baldwin Walker referred as controlling, in conjunction with the 1847 regulations, the advancement of merit alone, had all been appointed by our political opponents. Sir Baldwin Walker is correct in stating, I believe, that he had an interview with me on 5th April. He further states, that at that interview I said, "There is no use in blinking the question; I am so pressed by the Government, that I cannot help myself." Also, at Question 127, he adds, qualifying the word "Government," that I mentioned the name of Lord Derby and the then Chancellor of the Exchequer. Upon that statement I have to observe, and the observation will hold good as to all my evidence, that as I never kept any note or memorandum of any conversation on the subjects now under the consideration of this Committee, it is very difficult to pledge myself to the precise accuracy, either affirmatively or negatively, of any particular words. I believed, and still believe, that it is usual in official life to speak confidentially; and because confidentially, therefore without reserve; if the matters debated at the Admiralty were not arranged satisfactorily to all parties,

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the Board seems to me to have been the proper place, so to speak, of appeal, where all of course would be formal and official. This view, and as the Committee will see hereafter, the apparently satisfactory termination of the matter, have left me unable to speak with certainty as to expressions; but I have a very thorough recollection of the state of things at the time. There was no pressure put upon me either by Lord Derby or the Chancellor of the Exchequer; but what I believe I did state was, that the pressure upon me from members of my own party was very severe indeed, and that the Government of Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not, any more than any other Government, permit all the patronage to be in the hands of their political opponents. I should desire, before I go further, to explain exactly to the Committee the Government code of 1847, and the circular of 26th September 1849. The first was a code making advancements depend upon merit alone; that has never been interfered with by any subsequent circular, and remained in operation during the whole of the time I was in office. The second, of September 1849, applied to the transfer of the control to the Surveyor, and it was to that alone that the circular of 1852 referred. The Auckland code of dockyard regulations, if I may so term it, remained unaltered. I believe that the documents exist in the Admiralty, which show how that transfer or control took place. On the 19th April 1852, the circular was sent that has been given in very often, addressed publicly to the superintendent of each dockyard.

1138. *Chairman.*] Did you send Mr. Grant to Somerset House, to see Sir Baldwin Walker on that day, towards the end of March?—Mr. Grant sometimes went to Somerset House to see his father; he is comptroller of victualling there; and it is very likely I may have told him to ask Sir Baldwin Walker about some accounts or papers which were at times delayed; but I really have no remembrance of it at all, except that I never sent him there.

1139. Sir Baldwin Walker stated that you sent Mr. Grant to him, with a request that he would not submit names for promotion; was that so?—No.

1140. Are you certain that you did not send Mr. Grant, with a request to Sir Baldwin Walker that he would not submit the names of persons to be promoted?—Yes.

1141. You did not send him with such a request?—No; but I cannot say that I did not send him about some other business.

1142. In your letter of the 2d of April to Sir Baldwin Walker, you referred first to an impression that the appointments and promotions were given to political opponents?—Yes.

1143. Before you had written that to Sir Baldwin Walker, had you consulted with any of the authorities at the Admiralty?—Yes, I had. I do not think I consulted with any of the Lords of the Admiralty; I think not.

1144. Are the Committee to understand that you wrote it from your own impressions, and not from any inquiries that you had made of the Lords of the Admiralty?—From the inquiries that I had made in other quarters, and the innumerable letters I had received.

1145. But having received innumerable letters, and made inquiries in other quarters, you did not bring the letters or the subject of the inquiries under the consideration of the Lords of the Admiralty?—No.

1146. Can you state what letters you had received that created in your mind that impression, that appointments and promotions were given to political opponents; were they anonymous letters, or letters from persons whom you knew and whom you trusted?—I think they were, a great number of them, letters signed by people, generally sent to me in the strictest confidence; some of them were given to me, anonymous letters, by Members of Parliament on my own side, who said they could vouch for the respectability of their writers.

1147. Did those letters convey to you an impression that the appointments were still in the course of being given to political opponents?—Solely.

1148. Since the Government of which you were a member had come into power?—Yes.

1149. Having received that information, did you inquire what promotions and what appointments had been made since you came into office?—Yes, there were some that I looked to.

1150. Will you state the appointments and promotions that had taken place since you came into office at the Admiralty, and which led you to form that opinion?—I think the case of Ridgeway was a very strong case.

1151. Your

1151. Your letter was written on the 2d of April?—Yes.

1152. When was Ridgeway's promotion?—That, I think, was on the 5th.

1153. That case did not affect the letter?—No.

1154. Will you state the cases which, having received this statement, you inquired into, to see whether or not the statement was justifiable?—It was rather the cases of people whose names were withheld, than those who were sent in; the names that were not sent in were in so many cases given to me, as the names of those who had the greatest claim, and of course those names would not appear on the Admiralty papers.

1155. Can you state the names sent in for promotion since you have been Secretary at the Admiralty?—No. I could by looking at the documents; it is now more than a year ago.

1156. You formed an opinion, as I understand you, from the names sent in during the time between early in March and the 2d of April?—Yes.

1157. During that time a certain number of names had been sent in, and from those names you formed the impression that the same political influence was being used unjustly towards your party?—When a certain name was sent in for promotion, and there were three or four other people who were equally or more deserving, and whose names were said to be withheld on political grounds; I have not got the names now of those who have been promoted by myself. I corrected the error; if I had not done so I should have conceived that I was promoting men over the heads of others better qualified; the question was rather one of omission than one of actual appointment on the part of the Admiralty.

1158. It was not so much that appointments and promotions took place, as that people who ought to be promoted were held back?—There were perpetual complaints of that.

1159. You say that you made some promotions, could you say what promotions you made before the 2d of April?—I made a great number. I must have made promotions, I may say, almost every day, in so large a body as those employed in the dockyards, as the whole of the dockyards were submitted to me. The Committee can call for all papers from the 3d of March to the 2d of April, and see them, but they are so numerous that it is impossible for me to remember them.

1160. From the 3d of March to the 2d of April the promotions that you made came to you, passing through the office of the Surveyor?—Yes, of course; as they did previously to the cancelling of the circular.

1161. From the 3d of March to the 2d of April, had you seen the recommendations of the Surveyor, and put them aside, and promoted others?—No, I think not in many cases; I have not looked at those papers since.

1162. You said that persons were withheld, and that you yourself corrected the error and injustice that arose from those names being withheld, by putting them forward yourself?—No, when I had signed the appointment of A. and B. in the morning, and I went down to the House of Commons, it was represented to me that C. and D. had been passed over, who were more deserving; they had letters by post to say that I was signing the appointments of the unworthy; and complaints were made as to the others.

1163. When you had letters of that kind put into your hand by Members of Parliament, which were severe censures upon the Surveyor-general, if true, did you not make inquiries into them?—No, because they said it would be too dangerous for me to do; it was the perfection of the system that I could not do it; so it was represented to me.

1164. Do you mean that it was such a system that the Lords of the Admiralty could not inquire into the recommendations of the Surveyor of the Navy?—Not the Surveyor of the Navy; I do not bring any charge against him; but the representations in the letters were that the bringing forward of those particular cases would expose the individuals to a system of petty tyranny which no Lords of the Admiralty could check, and to which I adverted in my speech in the House of Commons.

1165. Do you not think that such a statement as that made to you by a Member of the House of Commons, namely, that A. and B. had been promoted, and C. and D. unjustly passed over, was a matter that called for inquiry?—Not an individual inquiry, but a general inquiry; a general watchfulness to prevent a recurrence of such transactions; and I thought that would be effected by the cancelling of the circular.

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1166. You took the complaint for granted, without inquiry; rather than inquiring further, you cancelled the circular?—I took the number of complaints, seeing that I was forbidden to bring them forward; for it was represented to me that it would be dangerous for the individuals, as a reason for the issuing of that circular. I am free to own to the Committee that I did not then attach so much importance to the circular as has been subsequently attached to it; I do not now attach so much importance to it as many do; but when I was younger in office, I attached less importance to it than now, I thought I could manage the dockyards by the names coming up to me immediately, so long as I left wholly untouched the regulations of Sir Henry Ward and Lord Auckland. I did not think the change was a very great one, a transfer of the letters from Somerset House to Whitehall.

1167. But as to your letter of the 2d of April?—That letter was wholly unnecessary, for the Committee will see that the Lords of the Admiralty would have had the power of doing it, cancelling the circular, without the least communication to the Surveyor; and my letter to him was, I may say, an act of courtesy.

1168. But your letter of the 2d of April was written, was it not, without any communication with the Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes.

1169. You proposed to Sir Baldwin Walker a recurrence to the system which was in force previously to 1849, before you had consulted the Lords of the Admiralty upon that step?—When I entered the Admiralty, I was informed and thoroughly believed, that the power as to the dockyards rested with the Secretary, and had always rested with him; and in such a time as that I need not remind the Committee that the first thing that was forced upon me by all my political friends was the amount of my patronage, the first thing I had to inquire at the Admiralty was the limit of that patronage; and I was generally informed that the dockyards were under the management of the Secretary, therefore I did not know that communication with any Lord was necessary, except with the First Lord.

1170. When you wrote that private letter of the 2d of April, you thought that the patronage of the dockyards was in fact under the Secretary of the Admiralty?—I was informed that it always had been, and I thoroughly believed that it was in my possession.

1171. In that letter you acquitted Sir Baldwin Walker of all blame in the matter?—Of all blame in the matter, so far as politics go; and never have I, since I have been in office, from the 2d of April to this 2d of May 1853, heard Sir Baldwin charged with any political bias whatever, and I have never said that he was charged with any political bias whatever; and what I have said of Sir Baldwin Walker I still maintain.

1172. Did you not convey the impression that the Government which had been displaced from office had the design of retaining the patronage of the dockyards, through the intervention of the system that they had arranged for the promotions?—That was the passage I read: it was a passage not spoken by myself, but read by me, to give The House a notion, as far as I could with safety to individuals, of the sort of complaints that came to me through the Surveyor's department. The Surveyor's department is a different thing from the Surveyor himself. What I heard was, that the Surveyor did not very much interfere with those appointments, but that there were others who did.

1173. Did you share in that notion which you so conveyed to The House?—I shared in the notion then, so far as to think that it would be a fair subject for inquiry; and I did not see how I could inquire, with safety to individuals, or without giving offence, in an easier manner than by bringing the dockyards into direct communication with myself. I may, perhaps, have had to communicate privately with the superintendents of the different dockyards; on some occasions I did so; but if I was writing on one occasion a private letter, which went at one time, and, as it were, a public letter in reference to the same particular appointment, which went to Somerset House, I found the inconvenience of it would be very great.

1174. If you shared in the belief that there was any truth in such a statement as that which you read to the House of Commons, viz. that the Whig party feeling their power declining, thought it necessary to fall on some plan to continue a system which would, even if they retired from office, still leave the dockyard patronage in their grasp; was it not your duty to the public to examine into and expose it?—I thought I could examine into it, at least stop it by putting myself in direct communication with the particular dockyards.

1175. Was

1175. Was not it a system which ought to have been at once exposed, for the sake of the public service?—I was not so sure of it as to be convinced that it could be exposed.

1176. You were sufficiently convinced of it to alter the channel through which the patronage had already passed?—Yes.

1177. Not to inquire further into it?—Yes; by altering the channel I could inquire. I altered it in the belief that it was the safest mode of inquiry, and the fairest mode of inquiry, because it brought me into more direct communication with the officers of the yards.

1178. You stated, did you not, in speaking of the superintendents of the dockyards, that they had been all appointed by political opponents?—I believe so. The Whig Government had appointed all of them, their tenure is five years.

1179. Had you any grounds for suspecting that the superintendents of the dockyards had lent themselves to those proceedings?—No. I use the fact of their having been appointed by our political opponents to show, that in cancelling the circular I could not expect to play into the hands of political partizans. If the superintendents of the dockyards had been appointed by the party to which I belonged, my motives for cancelling the circular might have been more suspicious, but as cancelling it brought me into direct communication with the officers appointed by my political opponents, I thought that my motives were less liable to suspicion, and that is why I mention that they were appointed by my political opponents.

1180. You had no distrust of the superintendents of the dockyards, but did it not make your distrust more complete of the Surveyor's office?—Yes, I think it did.

1181. Therefore you did, for some reason or other, distrust the Surveyor's office?—Yes; I ought to speak of "distrust" with great qualification. It was represented to me, for instance, that in the Surveyor's office there were relations of people who were in the dockyards; that other causes led to promotion, as well as political ones; there was a great deal of professional jealousy in the dockyards; there was a great deal of jealousy in the system in the dockyard; and there was a great deal of nepotism in some cases recommended to me; and it seemed to me that the Admiralty was further removed from any suspicion of participation in those feelings than the department at Somerset House would be. I do not say it was the case, but it was sufficiently represented to me to make me feel it desirable to adopt the alteration which I proposed, which should not disturb any of the dockyard. If I had gone into the question of professional jealousy, or the favoritism of relations, the inquiry would be endless, and in my position as a new official almost hopeless, and that I should only raise against myself a set of enemies that would prevent me carrying on the business of my office. While I say that I thought there was ground for inquiry, I did not think that there was ground to proceed with what I would call a harsher proceeding; it did not strike me when I wrote that circular that the Surveyor would take it personally to himself, but for fear there might be any difficulty, and as it was necessary for me to do so, I wrote this letter, as much as possible to explain, without entering into particulars, the reason for the course I proposed to adopt.

1182. You proposed in that letter to recur to the system in force before 1849, and you asked Sir Baldwin Walker's opinion?—Yes.

1183. Then he sent you the answer which you have read to the Committee?—Yes.

1184. In that answer he stated, "it is for their Lordships to decide whether they will rescind the order of 1849"?—Yes.

1185. Having received that answer, did you proceed to consult any of the Lords of the Admiralty upon that point?—The First Lord.

1186. Did you take the correspondence to the First Lord?—I think I did, but I am not quite certain; I think I did, but I consulted him about cancelling the order of 1849.

1187. You consulted him prior to the cancelling of the order, as to cancelling it?—Yes.

1188. Are the Committee to understand that you cancelled the order under the authority of the First Lord?—Under the cognizance of the First Lord, and under his authority; I could not have done it if he had refused it.

1189. With his sanction, of course?—With his cognizance.

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1190. Sir *B. Hall.*] Was it with his sanction?—Yes; though the First Lord, as was stated in Sir James Graham's speech, left the departments a good deal to themselves.

1191. *Chairman.*] You consulted none of the other Lords besides the First Lord?—No, my impression is that I did not.

1192. Was that circular of the 19th of April brought under the consideration of the Board before it was issued?—Now I must wait for the books.

1193. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] As to the circulars of 1847 and 1849, do they refer to first appointments as well as promotions?—No, I think not; the circular of 1849, of course, does not refer to them.

1194. Merely to promotions?—Yes.

1195. I wish to understand this, whether, between the 3d of March and the 2d of April, you did not mean to complain of the appointments that had been improperly made, but the promotions?—Yes, we called them first entries and promotions, rather than appointments and promotions.

1196. The first entries having rested with you, and the Surveyor having nothing to do with them?—Yes; the names of the first entries went up to the Surveyor; I believe I am right.

1197. I have always understood that the first entries rested with the Secretary. I presume the person appointed had to undergo an examination before he was confirmed?—My impression is that the Superintendent of the Yard sent up the names of first entries also.

1198. *Chairman.*] In the evidence of Sir Baldwin Walker, he was asked, at Question 8, what promotions had been made in the dockyard from the time when you had been appointed Secretary to the Admiralty up to the time when you wrote your letter on the 2d of April; and Sir Baldwin Walker stated to the Committee that there had been no promotions; he says, "I do not think there had been one promotion"?—That is a question which can be decided at once by reference to the Admiralty books.

1199. Your impression is that there had been a great many promotions?—I do not say a great number; my impression is that there had been some.

1200. And it was from those promotions having been unsatisfactory that you wrote your letter to Sir Baldwin Walker, was it not?—Yes, in a considerable degree it certainly was.

1201. But without that you would not have written the letters to Sir Baldwin Walker at all, had not your political friends been dissatisfied?—Certainly not.

1202. In writing that letter to Sir Baldwin Walker, because your political friends were dissatisfied, did you not intend, when you took the patronage from Sir Baldwin Walker, to satisfy your political friends?—So far to satisfy them that at all events I could ascertain that the whole of the promotions were not given the other way; that I have alluded to in the letter.

1203. Lord *Hotham.*] Do you include appointments in the term promotion?—I include everything.

1204. You include the first entries into the dockyards?—I include the whole of the patronage which went through the Surveyor, and the whole of the correspondence in reference to the patronage.

1205. The first entries of new persons brought into the dockyards were not recommended by the Surveyor, and did not pass through the Surveyor in that form?—In some cases I think they did.

1206. The first entries?—In some cases subsequently they did.

1207. (To Sir *B. Walker.*) Had you any power of submitting names for first entries into the dockyards?—No; I never had anything to do with first entries at all; there might be the case of a leading man in a particular place, perhaps, occasionally, but I never had any patronage, and never submitted the name of any man. I merely submitted those with reference to advancements in the yards.

1208. Then, under none of the Governments which have been in office since you have been at the Admiralty have you had the patronage of the first entries?—No, never under any Government whatever.

1209. *Chairman* (To Mr. *Stafford*).] Was your letter of the 2d of April issued rather on account of representations that were made to you, than on account of any actual names that were brought under your notice?—There were a number of names brought under my notice; those who were passed over, or who had been passed over.

1210. But, as I understand you, you did not further inquire into those names, but

but took the statements upon the representations of your friends?—Yes, and of parties themselves in many cases.

1211. Who wrote up those letters?—Yes.

1212. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Were these the cases of persons who had been passed over between the date of your entrance into office and the date of your letter, or previously to that?—They were people who wrote to me referring to matters before the date of my entering office.

1213. Did their complaints refer to a previous period?—Yes, the complaints, several of them, ran back a long time.

1214. Not of persons who had been passed over during your tenure of office?—Not altogether, but their complaints came while I was in office.

1215. *Chairman.*] On the 5th of April you stated that you did have an interview with Sir Baldwin Walker?—Yes.

1216. In that you agree with Sir Baldwin Walker?—Yes; I had a great number of interviews.

1217. You recollect having some interview with him, in which you stated that you were severely pressed by members of your party?—Yes, severely pressed.

1218. As members of your party had severely pressed you, and as you had heard several names given by your friends, of men who had been passed over, did you not, in any discussion that took place, take an opportunity of bringing those names under the notice of Sir Baldwin Walker?—No.

1219. You did not refer to any names?—I think not.

1220. Did you represent to Sir Baldwin Walker the sort of charge that was made against his department?—I represented to him, that the complaints of my political friends were, that the whole of the patronage was given the other way.

1221. You did not go into any of those names, to show that this was so?—So far as my memory goes, I think not.

1222. You stated, did you not, that though you did not recollect the exact expression you used on the 5th of April, yet you do recollect that you did not then introduce any names, either of Lord Derby or the Chancellor of the Exchequer?—Yes, I think I introduced both. I think I said that the pressure from my political friends was very severe, and that the Government of Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not, any more than any other Government, let the whole of the political patronage flow into the hands of their political opponents.

1223. Mr. *Beckett.*] Are the Committee to consider that you had consulted the First Lord previously to your letter to Sir Baldwin Walker, or previously to the circular of the 19th?—I think previously to both. The conversations between the First Lord and me were by no means of a formal character. I used to go to him every morning, and state what I wished. The First Lord, as well as myself, were new in office, and it is impossible for me to recollect when I consulted him on any particular subject, because of my daily intercourse with him, and the multitude of subjects that were compressed into a small space, it was as much as I could possibly do to get out the Estimates, to answer questions in the House of Commons, and carry on the business of the office. I came into office in the middle of a Session, with the Estimates to learn, and to learn also all the official business, as well as the professional details, as well as I could, every moment was of consequence to me; and it was as much as I could do to carry on the business of the office. I cannot in the least recollect any particular conversation that I had with the First Lord on this subject.

1224. *Chairman.*] You consulted him before issuing the circular; but I also understood you to say that you did not consult any of the Lords before writing your private letter of the 2d of April?—I do not think I wrote that letter without consulting the First Lord on the subject generally; I think not.

1225. You think that you did consult him as to taking the patronage away from the channels through which it had formerly passed?—That plan had been suggested to me, and it would probably arise by degrees. One day I might say to the Duke that I was much pressed, and that there was great difficulty; another day I might say that it got worse and worse; and another day I might say, "This has been suggested to me," and so on.

1226. You had at the Admiralty the aid of a naval Lord who had been himself superintendent of a dockyard?—Yes.

1227. This question, referring to patronage in the dockyards, did it not seem to you that it would be judicious to consult him before taking such a step as you did?

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did?—No. I found nothing more jealously watched in the Admiralty than the arrangement of the patronage; no one consulted another, at least very seldom, upon the subject, out of their own department.

1228. Perhaps not upon an appointment which was their own absolutely, but in making a general order, cancelling a circular that had been the rule at the Admiralty for several years, did it not appear advisable to you to consult a naval Lord who had himself been for many years superintendent of a dockyard?—It might have been better, but I did not consult him.

1229. Had you any reason to distrust him, as you did not consult him?—Not the least; I was told what his duties were. There is a card put up, with the different departments of the Lords, and as it was not in his department I did not consult him. It was not at all any alienation from him; I scarcely knew him at the time.

The Honourable *W. P. Talbot* stated that he had a letter which he wished to hand in.

1230. *Chairman* (To Mr. *Talbot*).] You were private secretary to Lord Derby?—Yes.

[*The following Letter was read:*]

My Lord, May 2, 1853, House of Commons Committee-room.

I HAVE been desired by Lord Derby to attend the Committee this day, and to inform you, as Chairman, that unless the Committee be perfectly satisfied that his Lordship brought no undue influence to bear upon Mr. Stafford, with reference to the dockyard appointments, he would wish to be called upon to give evidence before the Committee. It would probably be right that this should be made public, but I will not do so without your permission.

I am, &c.

The Lord Seymour. (signed) *W. P. Talbot.*

Mr. *Stafford.*—I put in this book to show that the circular of the 29th of September 1849 was not issued on a Board Minute. (*The Book was handed in to the Committee.*) I put in the Board Minute of the 26th September 1849, to show that the Order was not there. (*Another Book was handed in.*)

1231. *Chairman.*] You put in the Board Minute Book of the Admiralty, and you refer to Wednesday, 26th of September 1849, to show that in that Board Minute Book there is no entry of the Admiralty Circular of that date?—I do. I now put in the general Minute Book to show that the Admiralty Circular is there entered.—(*The same was handed in.*)

1232. The Admiralty Circular is entered in this way, "Surveyor submits that the Surveyor be directed to transmit all reports and correspondence on the subject of vacancies, promotions, or changes of workmen and officers through his department, as existed previously to 1845, instead of being forwarded to the Board direct. Those reports would then be accompanied by such remarks from the Surveyor as he thought necessary to bring under the consideration of their Lordships. Surveyor also submits that the decision of their Lordships in every case be either referred to the Surveyor's office for record, or that he be acquainted in the usual manner." Then it is written at the bottom, "Approved; write accordingly"?—Yes.

1233. By whom would that approval be written?—That depends upon the different departments, who they are.

1234. Those departments being establishments in the dockyards, who do you imagine approved of that?—I should think most probably the Secretary.

1235. Not the First Lord?—No, it may have been the First Lord too; but the Committee will see that the Order of Reference goes to inquire why the circular was cancelled on the 10th day of April 1852, "without any order or minute of the Board." My answer to that is, that the circular itself was issued without any order or minute of the Board.

1236. To ascertain that correctly, it will be necessary, will it not, for this Committee to have before them the letter of the Surveyor, with his submission, and to see whether or not any of the Lords of the Admiralty initialed that letter?—Yes.

1237. That would show whether that approval was by a Lord of the Admiralty, or by the Secretary?—Yes.

1238. It will be necessary, therefore, to send for the original letter from the Surveyor, to see by whom it was approved and minuted?—The Committee of course

course can do so if they please; I have not looked at the books; I did not go beyond the Order of Reference upon this subject.

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1239. But that would be necessary, would it not, to ascertain accurately whether or not this question had been brought at that time under the consideration of the First Lord, or any other Lord of the Admiralty?—Certainly. All I know is, that it was never brought before the Board. I will now proceed with my statement. The circular of 1849 applied to the transfer of the control to the Surveyor, and it was to that alone that the circular of 1852 referred. I believe that documents exist in the Admiralty which show how that transfer of control took place. On the 19th of April the circular was sent, addressed publicly to the superintendents of each yard. This cancelling circular was issued with the cognizance of the First Lord; and I beg permission here to read the opinion of the present First Lord as to the official correctness of the course adopted. This is an extract from the speech of Sir James Graham in the House of Commons on the 19th of April, taken from the report in the Morning Chronicle: "I have not the least doubt that the First Lord of the Admiralty was in this case cognizant of the circular written by the honourable gentleman. I look upon it as a ministerial act upon his part, and the confirmation afterwards by the full Board would make it, in my opinion, a transaction which it would be very unfair and ungenerous to fix personally and individually upon the honourable gentleman." I now come to the evidence with reference to the letter of Sir Baldwin Walker, of the 21st of April, which appears on the Parliamentary Returns. It seems that it was addressed to me as Secretary of the Admiralty; it was not, however, given to me: I never saw it. In fact, I find it stated, in answer to Question 3452, of the Chatham evidence, that Sir Baldwin Walker gave it to Admiral Parker, and not to me. This is the Question, "You say that although you addressed a letter it was not brought before the Board?—I discovered afterwards that it had not been brought before the Board; the letter was on the 21st of April 1852; a further explanation is necessary on my part; it was delivered to the Senior Naval Lord of the Admiralty, addressed to the Secretary." "(*By Mr. Merewether.*) Did you deliver it?—Yes, I did." It certainly never reached me, and if there is any complaint of its not reaching the Board, the fault does not rest with me. Sir Baldwin Walker states that Admiral Parker took the letter after it had been read in Captain Milne's presence, and told Sir Baldwin Walker, that he, Admiral Parker, would bring it before the Board. I had no communication with Sir Baldwin, or Admiral Parker, or with Captain Milne; and was shown no letter. Sir Baldwin says, that he thinks, on the following day, which would be the 22d, he was asked by Admiral Parker to meet me on the subject. My impression is, that the meeting did actually take place on the 26th. That, however, except for the sake of accuracy, is comparatively immaterial, as there is no doubt that Sir Baldwin Walker, and Admiral Parker, and I, did meet, and at that meeting the circular of the 19th of April was discussed. On that occasion I was shown no letter. I am clear as to that. Indeed I am confirmed as to that view by the evidence of both Sir Baldwin Walker and Admiral Parker. Sir Baldwin Walker says, that "Admiral Parker had my letter in his hand during the interview." Admiral Parker says, "I did not read the letter on that occasion." Sir Baldwin Walker complained of the circular of the 19th of April as a personal reflection. I assured him that nothing of the kind was intended, and offered to write any private letter he pleased, deeming at the moment that that was all he required. When, however, he answered that as the circular was public, any document removing the imputation upon himself, should also be public, I directly replied, that there could be no possible objection. A draft of a further circular was made, read to Sir Baldwin Walker, and after some modification, to his satisfaction, was assented to by him. The draft I refer to is that of the circular of 26th April, in the Parliamentary Papers. It is material to notice here, in confirmation of my former statement, that the Auckland Dockyard Regulations have never been proposed to be interfered with. In this circular, issued to satisfy Sir Baldwin Walker, it is expressly set out that no such intention had existed. My impression of the whole affair was, that Sir Baldwin Walker had felt that the circular of 19th April had conveyed a personal imputation, which he desired to have removed, and which as it never had been intended, I desired should be removed, and about which he was satisfied by the circular of the 26th. That impression seems to have been entirely shared by Admiral Parker, as I gather from his letter of April 11th, 1853, which letter I read in

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in the House of Commons; and I beg to repeat here, this is an extract from a letter from Admiral Parker to a mutual friend of Admiral Parker and myself, and which I used in the House of Commons, after having obtained Admiral Parker's sanction so to do: "I saw Mr. Stafford in the presence of Sir Baldwin Walker, and Mr. Stafford stated to him that he had not any intention, by the circular sent to the dockyards, of casting any reflection upon the Surveyor. I think Mr. Stafford brought with him a written memorandum, which he read; and Walker made some objection to a part of it, which I think Mr. Stafford altered. This memorandum was afterwards sent to the dockyards. Walker appeared satisfied, and I then considered it settled, and destroyed Sir Baldwin Walker's letter. This, I believe, is the whole case. Yours, very truly (signed) *Hyde Parker*." Sir Baldwin Walker, however, further states, with regard to that interview, that I repeated those observations which he states I made at the interview of April the 5th, that it was no use blinking the question. &c. I observe that Admiral Parker's evidence is silent on that point. For myself, I can only repeat the remarks I made before, on the other occasion, in which I am stated to have used those words. So far as my knowledge or thought about the matter went, things remained thus till November. On the 21st, I received a notice of a question from Admiral Berkeley, and on November the 23d, Admiral Berkeley and Sir George Pechell put two questions to me; first, whether there was any correspondence upon the subject; and secondly, whether Sir Baldwin Walker had tendered his resignation. On the 22d, the day privious, I wrote a private letter to Sir Baldwin Walker, enclosing him a copy of Admiral Berkeley's notice, and asking him to what correspondence it referred: "Dear Sir Baldwin,—What correspondence is referred to in the third page of enclosed letter? I do not know of any. Answer as soon as you can, and return Admiral Berkeley's letter." I have not got that letter, but it was merely a formal notice of a question to be put. Sir Baldwin Walker states that he replied that he could not find the copies at Somerset House, but that they were probably at Whitehall: "Dear Sir,—I cannot now find a copy of the correspondence which took place on the subject of promotions in the dockyards, but I have no doubt that my letters on the subject are at Whitehall." On the receipt of that note, or before, I made every search, and found no letters or traces of any letters. Consequently, the following evening, in the House of Commons, I answered "No" to both questions. I had before stated that I had never seen or been told of Sir Baldwin Walker's letter of resignation. Admiral Parker told the Committee that he did not show it to me, or read it to me. He has also said that he destroyed it. That evidence gives the reason both why I did not know of it, and also why it could not be found when I searched for it on the 22d of November, as in fact it did not exist. Sir Baldwin Walker states, at Question 660, that he found the copies in a despatch box at home. He does not say when. If it was that night, or the following morning, he might have supplied me with them before the evening of the 23d, when I was called upon to give the two answers. Sir Baldwin Walker states quite truly, that on the 25th of November, two days after my answers in the House of Commons, he wrote the letter to myself, as Secretary to the Admiralty, which I will now put in: "Sir,—Having observed in the public papers, that the Secretary of the Admiralty is reported to have stated in the House of Commons, on the evening of the 23d instant, in reply to certain questions asked by Admiral Berkeley and Sir George Pechell, that there was no correspondence with the Surveyor of the Navy, on the subject of promotions in the dockyards, and also, that the Surveyor of the Navy had not tendered his resignation, I desire, through you, to call the attention of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to letters from me, bearing date the 21st of April, and the 10th of May last." It will be observed, that this letter refers not only to the letter of the 21st of April, but also to the letter of the 10th of May last. I mention the latter now for the first time, as the Committee may observe. All that I know, or knew of that letter, was this, that the Duke of Northumberland showed it to me in the strictest confidence. I need not mention to the Committee the regret that I feel in my desire to lay all the facts before them in referring them to a letter which I am obliged to say in the same breath was shown to me in the strictest confidence. I read it, however, and returned it to the Duke. Sir Baldwin Walker further states, that, calling at the Admiralty on that day he was informed I wished to see him, and that I began the conversation by naming his letter, and stating the answers that I had given in the House of Commons. This is his evidence; Question 198: "And then you had also an interview

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interview with Mr. Stafford, in which you stated that you were dissatisfied with the answer he had given?—Yes; Mr. Stafford informed me that he had replied, that there was no correspondence, and that I had not tendered my resignation; and I said, 'What could have induced you to make such an answer?' and he said, the letter could not be found in the records; and he then alluded to the letter to the First Lord, and at the same time said, 'That is a private letter' (pointing to a letter on the table), which appeared to me to be a copy of my letter to the First Lord of the Admiralty." All I can say of that statement is, that Sir Baldwin Walker is more accurate in his answer to Question 198, than he is in the earlier part of his evidence. The Committee will see that the only letter to which Sir Baldwin Walker, either at page 4 or Question 198, can have referred, was the letter of the 10th of May, to which I have before adverted, as Admiral Parker told the Committee that he had not only given the letter of resignation to me, but had destroyed it. The letter of the 10th of May, which is now in the Parliamentary return, was treated by me confidentially, as it had been treated by the Duke of Northumberland; and having been so treated, it did not of course exist in the record office. I must also remark, that if such a conversation, and those facts, as stated by Sir Baldwin Walker had occurred, it is remarkable that I should have written the next day, November the 26th, the letter in page 11 of the return, asking for copies, in reply to Sir Baldwin Walker's letter of the 25th. The Committee will observe that the next document in date is a letter of Sir Baldwin Walker to myself, dated November the 29th. I had asked for copies of the correspondence by my letter of the 26th. Sir Baldwin Walker has stated that he wrote a letter on the 27th, which enclosed copies; that it was late when he reached Whitehall; that the Members had left; that he took it home, meaning to send it in on the Monday; that on Sunday the 28th he received a letter from me, requesting him to call on Monday; that he did call, and that I stated to him that I had, as he phrased it, "hit upon a plan" of settling the affair. Sir Baldwin Walker certainly did come to me, and I told him that there was no trace of the letter in the record office, and that it seemed to me that the only plan for him to adopt was to write a letter, the general terms of which I suggested, and which were practically the terms of the letter which he did write on that day; I believe I did state to him that which I am sure I felt, that on all occasions I should regret if we were ever on other terms than those of co-operation. He said, as I understood, that he should go and consult Admiral Parker, and he left me for that purpose. He returned to me in my office in a state of considerable excitement, with a draft of the letter in his hand. I read it, and proposed to him to write it, that I might bring it before the Board; he declined, and said he should prefer sending it from Somerset House. Before he left he informed me of what had occurred at his interview with Admiral Parker, and the observations of the Duke. These I considered to be the causes of his excitement and annoyance. He then left the room. I believe I have correctly stated the circumstances of those interviews. I did not press Sir Baldwin Walker to suppress the correspondence. I have no recollection of his stating that he must send them in. I remember that I repeated immediately the substance of what had passed to Mr. Briggs, a gentleman in the office. I have ascertained his recollection of that statement, and it is in accordance with that which I have now stated, and, therefore, I was surprised when I heard that portion of Sir Baldwin Walker's statement. I have further to notice the answers to Questions 622 and 649, in the Evidence of Captain Milne: "Your name was mentioned yesterday in connexion with a letter, perhaps you will state to the Committee anything you wish to say upon that subject?—I may mention, as my name was mentioned, as to what took place about Sir Baldwin Walker's letter, that when copies were called for, Mr. Stafford expressed a wish, that as I was a friend of Sir Baldwin Walker I would endeavour to smooth matters over. I entertained the same opinion, that it was a pity to rake up a business that had been passed over for several months, and as he was called upon for copies of the letters I thought it might cause a misunderstanding at the Board. I went as a friend to both parties, to use my endeavours merely in an amicable way, in order that the copies should not be sent, so as not to raise a question, and I did that without any intention of acting against Sir Baldwin Walker or against Mr. Stafford. I certainly by my influence with Sir Baldwin Walker, got him to withdraw the copies of those letters, and that is the reason the copies were not sent. I think it due to Sir Baldwin Walker that I should make that statement, it was done on my

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part with a good spirit and a good intention, to prevent any misunderstanding arising."

1240. Are the Committee to understand that you do not agree with that statement?—So far as to adopt Captain Milne's expression, "to smooth matters over." I cannot, however, accept Captain Milne's word, "mediate," if it be intended to imply that such mediation was as between Sir Baldwin Walker and myself, or that it was to induce Sir Baldwin Walker to suppress the copies. I think in the latter portion of his answer, 622, Captain Milne has precisely appreciated correctly, and expressed the nature of his interference.

1241. Are the Committee to understand that you mean that Captain Milne went as a friend to both parties, to use his endeavours merely in an amicable way, in order that the copies should not be sent?—Yes, that was my impression in speaking to Captain Milne.

1242. As far as that answer 622 goes, Captain Milne went with your sanction to try, in an amicable way, to prevent copies of the letters being sent, in order that the question might drop?—No; I do not know that it was to prevent copies of the letters being sent. I do not think, so far as my memory serves me, that I specified to Captain Milne any particular course.

1243. You do not then agree with that statement, because Captain Milne says, "I went as a friend to both parties to use my endeavours, merely in an amicable way, in order that the copies should not be sent;" did you express any desire to Captain Milne on the subject?—I think not; I think I asked him to go and say that it was a very unpleasant business and very disagreeable, and I wished he would arrange matters with Sir Baldwin Walker; my object was from the first that Sir Baldwin Walker should adopt the letters which he did adopt subsequently.

1244. But the course which he adopted subsequently was not to give in copies of the letters?—Not merely not sending in copies of the letters, not merely giving a return as it were of nil, but to state what had become of the letters, and the reasons why he did not send copies. He states in that letter of the 29th, two sufficient reasons, one for each letter, which are his reasons for the non-appearance of those letters as copies.

1245. You mean, do you not, that the letter sent by Sir Baldwin Walker, of the 29th of November, met exactly your wishes?—Yes, just so; because it explained the reasons why there were no letters in the record office; that one had been destroyed by the person to whom it was confided, and the other treated as confidential by the person to whom it was addressed.

1246. It states, as to your letter of the 26th: "I beg to acquaint you, that since my communication of the 25th instant, I have been informed that my letter of the 21st of April, addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, which was delivered to Vice-Admiral Hyde Parker was not brought before the Board." It does not state that it was destroyed. And with reference to that letter of the 10th of May, it was a communication addressed to the First Lord, and not to the Secretary?—Yes; when I read that letter I thought the phrase, "not being brought before the Board," was sufficiently satisfactory, and as I knew the First Lord had a discretion to make a letter private or public, I considered the statement that was brought before the First Lord, in contradistinction to the Board, was sufficient. The Committee will see that this would be a different thing, sending in a return that he had not the copies, or that he would rather not send them, and it seemed to me that this letter was conclusive upon the subject.

1247. You did not request Captain Milne to ask Sir Baldwin Walker to withhold the letters?—No; according to the best of my recollection, I did not. The feeling in my mind was, that I should, in some way or other, answer about it, in case the subject was raised again in the House of Commons, when I found that Sir Baldwin Walker had not got the letters at Somerset House, but who said that they were at Whitehall; and when I searched for them at Whitehall, in the record office, officially, formally, and diligently, by means of clerks, whose duty it was to keep that department, and found that the letters not only were not there, but had never been there; and when I had waited a day given, not given, but when a day had elapsed, and Sir Baldwin Walker had not sent me in any copies of those letters, then I gave my answer in the House of Commons with the most perfect good faith, both to Admiral Berkeley, who gave me notice, and to Sir George Pechell, who gave me no notice, that there were no letters. The thing ended there. On the 25th it was raised again, officially, by Sir Baldwin Walker writing this letter to me as Secretary to the Admiralty; then I sent an official and formal letter

letter to him, as I had previously sent a private one, asking him for copies; and then I did not get an answer, for the reasons he has explained, till it came to the Monday, which was the next Board day, and the next day of meeting of the House of Commons; and therefore I felt, whether the question was renewed, or any other letter was moved for, it might be awkward for me, as the organ of the Board, not to be able to state whether there was any correspondence or not. It would not have been difficult, if Sir Baldwin Walker had sent in his letters, to lay them upon the Table of the House, and I could have said with regard to the date at which those letters had arrived before the Board, that being subsequent to the 23d of November, the day on which I answered the question, there would not be the least blame or responsibility attached to me upon that subject. I could have laid them on the Table of The House, or answered any question; all I wanted was, that the thing should be cleared up.

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1248. As I understand you, when you answered the question on the 23d of November 1852, the only letter that you had then received upon the subject from Sir Baldwin Walker was, a letter to this effect: "I cannot now find a copy of the correspondence which took place respecting the promotions in the dockyards, but I have no doubt that my letters on the subject are at Whitehall"?—Yes; that was the only letter I had then received, and I did not consider that it was necessary for me, in my duty as Secretary, to have written the letter to which that was an answer.

1249. Did not that induce you to believe, though you could not find the correspondence there, that some correspondence had taken place when you received a letter from the Surveyor, stating, "I have no doubt my letters are at Whitehall"?—No, because I had searched at Whitehall.

1250. That only showed that you could not find the letters; did it prove that no letters had been sent?—Yes; not that they had reached the record office and been removed, but that they had never been placed there at all.

1251. Their not being placed in the record office was a sufficient proof to you that there had never been any?—Quite sufficient; I did not ask a single question; all my business as Secretary is with the record office. If the letters are there, I have to answer for them; but if they are not there, and never have been there, I have nothing more to do with them than I have with letters addressed to any Member of this Committee.

1252. On that occasion you would not answer that no letter was to be found in the record office in the Admiralty, but the answer was the habitual one, "No correspondence has taken place"?—"No correspondence has taken place." If they had ever been there, and there was a trace of their having been removed, as we have heard of some other letters during the process of this inquiry, then it would have been my duty to say, "There are no traces of them in the Record Office; but if the gallant Admiral will repeat his question in a few days, I may be able to speak more definitely." But if they are found not to have been there, then I have no knowledge whatever of such letters. There was not the slightest mistake here, because it was distinctly stated to me, by a man whose professional ability and personal veracity I had no reason to doubt, that there never had been copies of those letters there.

1253. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated, that when you gave that answer in the House of Commons, you did so in perfect good faith; and that after having inquired at the record office, and not finding any letters, you had no hesitation in saying there was not any correspondence upon the resignation of the Surveyor of the Navy?—Not the least hesitation.

1254. Are the Committee to understand that you never saw the letter of the 21st of April 1852, or that you never heard of the contents of that document, or of the existence of such a document, previously to the 22d of November?—I did not. With regard to that document, knowing that it entirely rested with Admiral Parker, I considered that Sir Baldwin Walker by trusting it to him, and placing it in the hands of Admiral Parker, and investing Admiral Parker with a discretionary power regarding that correspondence, and tendering that resignation; and as Admiral Parker had neither done the one thing nor the other, I did not consider it my duty, either as Secretary to the Admiralty, or as a gentleman, to interfere between two people who seemed, so far as I understood, to have arranged the matter between themselves. I considered I had no business to ask Sir Baldwin Walker why he entrusted Admiral Parker with that discretionary power; and I conceived that I had no business to ask Admiral Parker why he exercised

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that discretionary power in such a way as not to tender the resignation to the Board, and not to send the letter to the record office.

1255. My question was this: did you before the 24th of November, when you answered the question of Admiral Berkeley and Sir George Pechell, know the existence, or that there ever had existed, any letter from Sir Baldwin Walker, in which letter he tendered his resignation?—To the best of my belief, I did not.

1256. You never heard of the contents of such a document, or of the existence of it?—I never saw the contents, and never heard them read till after they were moved for in the House of Commons.

1257. Were you ever informed, or did you ever know, that Sir Baldwin Walker had ever written a letter in which he tendered his resignation, or were you aware of Sir Baldwin Walker having taken any step of that kind?—To the best of my belief, certainly not. I stated in the House of Commons what I now state, to the best of my belief, certainly not. I will state what I stated to the House of the proceedings of that day.

1258. *Chairman.*] Of which day?—The 26th, when this letter was under discussion, previously to the discussion in Admiral Parker's room. I think the Duke either sent for me, or I went to give him papers, and then he said, "The Surveyor of the Navy considers that an imputation has been cast upon him, and he is extremely annoyed at it; and I do not think he will remain in his situation unless the imputation is removed;" and he added, then as he says, "If the Surveyor should resign, I do not think I shall be able to find anybody to take his place." My memory is (speaking in perfect frankness before the Committee), that the Duke said, "If he goes, Admiral Parker will follow; and if Admiral Parker resigns, I do not know how we shall get on with the business of the Admiralty." I was very much annoyed at that, and I said, "Any imputation can be removed at once;" and the Duke said, "Go to Admiral Parker; Sir Baldwin Walker is in his room; settle it." I went and drew up a draft of a letter, and there Admiral Parker takes up the thread of the story.

1259. Sir *B. Hall.*] When the Duke told you of Sir Baldwin Walker tendering his resignation, did he allude in any way whatever to the resignation having been tendered?—He said he was very much annoyed, and he said, "I do not think he will remain in his office, unless the stigma is removed."

1260. Nothing was said as to the tender of resignation?—Nothing.

1261. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] I presume you were present at the meeting of the Board on the 26th of April?—Yes; I was secretary to the Board.

1262. Question 369, to Admiral Parker, is this: "When this circular was under consideration at the Board of Admiralty, was Sir Baldwin Walker's resignation made the subject of consideration?" and his answer was: "It must have been, because this is brought forward afterwards; it must have been, of course; and I must have been present, I presume, but I have no recollection of it."?—Admiral Parker was present at the Board.

1263. You were present, were you not?—Yes; I was the secretary of the Board.

1264. Then in Question 378, Admiral Parker is asked; "But the fact that Sir Baldwin Walker tendered his resignation, must have been known to the Board and to the Secretary?" and his answer is: "I presume so." "379. Because if it was a matter of discussion, and if it led to this circular, it must, though not in an official shape perhaps, have been known to the Board?—I presume it was."?—Will the Committe permit me to say that the members of the Board would be the best persons to examine.

1265. Have you any recollection of the resignation having been the subject of discussion or conversation?—Not the least. My impression is this; it had got abroad, through the Admiralty, that Sir Baldwin Walker was very much annoyed at the circular, and that members of the Board came to the Board hearing that sort of vague rumour; and the circular was brought forward, it being said that all difficulties were made up, and that the feelings of the Surveyor were soothed, and his annoyance removed by it; nobody asked the least question about it, for fear of raising a disagreeable subject; all were eager to pass it: that is my notion of it. The Committee can call the members of the Board.

1266. *Chairman.*] I will direct your attention to the evidence of Admiral Parker at Question 286, and you will see there that Admiral Parker said that he was requested by the Duke of Northumberland to see Sir Baldwin Walker and

Mr.

Mr. Stafford, on the subject of that letter, and endeavour to make peace, and settle it, and that letter was the letter tendering his resignation?—Yes.

1267. Then further on, he was asked this question, 296, "You did not read the letter upon that occasion?—No." "297. But the purport was made the subject of conversation?—Yes, it was; it was a very warm conversation, partly between Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Stafford, upon that occasion." Therefore the subject of resignation was discussed, though the letter itself was not read, as I understand?—The subject of the imputation, and the circular to the dockyards, was discussed.

1268. But the letter tendered the resignation?—Yes. It was saying there was an imputation; and in consequence of that imputation, tendering the resignation.

1269. Though the purport of the letter was discussed, it did not involve the question of resignation?—Not to the best of my belief, because, so far as I can recollect of it, it was rather as to the mode of removing the annoyance of the Surveyor, than a consideration of what he would do if the imputation or stigma was not removed. The discussion was, whether a private letter should be written or a public one. I must remark, that I cannot be particular as to the word; in this respect I can be particular as to my impression that Admiral Parker had that letter in his hand; he was the person who had to deal with it, and never till he gave it into my hand had I anything to do with it as Secretary.

1270. The Committee would be wrong in supposing that the purport of the letter meant the question of resignation?—So far as my memory goes, we discussed, I think, the general question of the way in which the application should be made, and whether a public letter should be sent or a private one. There was a difficulty in sending a public one, for it was very unusual for the Board to cast an imputation upon one of their own officers, whom they could dismiss if they pleased.

1271. You stated, did you not, that the circular of the 19th of April was issued with the cognizance of the First Lord of the Admiralty?—Yes.

1272. Are the Committee to understand, when you use the term "cognizance," that you consider it to be identical with "sanction"?—I considered it to be identical with sanction.

1273. Your supposition is, that to have his cognizance was to have his sanction?—Yes; the Duke of Northumberland stated to me, as I dare say he stated to Admiral Parker, the reasons that he saw against it, and I replied to them as well as I could; the result was that the Duke gave me permission.

1274. Then Admiral Parker is in error. At question 329 he was asked, "Was not it a very grave matter for the Secretary of the Admiralty to issue a circular without the cognizance of the Board of Admiralty?" To which he answered, "I considered it so, certainly. 330. Considering it a very grave matter, cannot you remember whether or not you brought it under the consideration of the Lords of the Admiralty?—No, I did not bring it before the Board; I had remonstrated upon it repeatedly to the First Lord. 331. Are the Committee to understand that your remonstrance was not made to the Board, but that it was made to the First Lord?—It was. The Committee will allow me to say, at the same time, that the First Lord's opinion was perfectly with my own on the subject." Now it would seem, from your present statement, that the First Lord was cognizant of this letter; and therefore if it was without the cognizance of the Board, it was at least sent with his cognizance; whereas the answer of Admiral Parker would lead the Committee to understand that it had been sent without the cognizance of the First Lord, and that he, equally with Admiral Parker, disapproved of its having been so sent?—It is impossible for me to say what conversations the First Lord had with Admiral Parker. It is very likely that the First Lord stated to him, as he did to me, the reasons which he saw against it. I do not know whether he stated to Admiral Parker the reasons which he saw for it. I suspect that this conversation must have been subsequently to the issuing of the circular. Admiral Parker stated that he was not aware of its issue.

1275. When you discussed the question with the First Lord as to the sending of the circular, whether with the cognizance of the Board or not, the First Lord had, as it seems, been cognizant all the time of the circular having been sent?—I had the permission of the First Lord. He gave me leave to issue the circular in the first instance. Whether he changed his mind upon the subject afterwards, and thought that the working of the cancelling circular was bad, I do not know;

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but Admiral Parker says he remonstrated upon it repeatedly, to the First Lord; and perhaps the arguments of Admiral Parker might have made some impression upon the First Lord. The Committee will see that I cannot answer for that. I know that the First Lord never told me to recall that circular.

1276. The question asked Admiral Parker was, whether or not the circular spoken of had been brought under the consideration of the Board of Admiralty, and Admiral Parker said, that it certainly ought to have been, that he had remonstrated upon its not having being been so brought, and that the First Lord agreed with him in that opinion. If it had been brought under the notice of the First Lord, and if he had sanctioned it, that would be, as Admiralty matters are usually carried on, equivalent to the sanction of the Board?—Yes.

1277. If, therefore, you had the sanction of the First Lord, the First Lord could not himself have objected that it had gone without being brought before the Board?—I can only say that I do not know what conversations took place with Admiral Parker; I had the sanction and cognizance of the First Lord for the issuing of that circular, and it stands in evidence that it is yet unrecalled, and that it never was recalled by the First Lord; it was never recalled by the Board, and they never discussed the subject of its recall at the Board.

1278. Practically having the sanction of the First Lord of the Admiralty is considered as having the sanction of the Board, is it not?—No. The Admiralty is a corporate body, acting for an individual. Until the time of William the Fourth, who was Lord High Admiral of England, since, I believe, Prince George in the reign of Queen Anne. there never has been a Lord High Admiral, but the Lords Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral have acted as a corporate body, and they are in their corporate capacity placed in a similar position as to their Secretary, that the Commander-in-chief is to the Secretary at War. The First Lord of the Admiralty cannot issue directions to the fleet for sailing; the signature of the Secretary, signing in behalf of the Board, is absolutely necessary. The First Lord, whoever he may be, cannot issue orders to the fleet. The Committee well know, that when acting in the corporate capacity, they must act through their Secretary. Of course, this principle is modified in its practical working.

1279. You are not aware that it has been often so modified that the First Lord has overruled the whole Board?—Never. I never heard of such a case, or anything like such a case. If there is such a case, it must be recorded in the Board minute book.

1280. In issuing the circular of the 26th of April, you proposed in that circular to revert to the system that was in force before September 1849?—Yes.

1281. You equally, in your letter, pledged yourself to revert to that system?—Yes.

1282. What did you understand that system to be exactly as to promotions?—I understood that system to be that no promotion should take place without a communication with the different superintendents at the dockyards, and that people should not be promoted who were not in their lists.

1283. Did you understand it to be that the superintendents of the dockyards should send up several names, and that you should send those names to the Surveyor of the Navy?—No.

1284. You did not think it a part of the system to obtain the opinion of the Surveyor of the Navy upon the promotions?—No. There were cases in which they were sent to the Surveyor.

1285. Had you looked carefully, before you sanctioned the recurrence to the system that was in force before September 1849, to see what that system was?—To the dockyard regulations in 1847 I had.

1286. Are the Committee to understand that your belief was that the system in force previous to 1849 was that the superintendents should send up some names, and that the Secretary of the Admiralty should select them?—Yes; when vacancies for promotions were made in the dockyards, that they should not be, as before 1847, filled up by strangers sent down from the Admiralty without the least recommendation on the part of the superintendents of the yards; that seemed to me a great distinction.

1287. First, as to the promotions, what was your notion of the system in force before 1849; was it that the superintendents of the dockyards should send up several names, and that the Secretary of the Admiralty should select the names of those sent up for recommendation?—Yes.

1288. That

1288. That he should select?—Yes.

1289. Without reference whatever to the Surveyor of the Navy?—Yes, without any reference generally to the Surveyor of the Navy.

1290. When you wrote the letter to Sir Baldwin Walker, in which you stated, "In my case your wishes would always have great weight with me," how was he to express his wishes, unless before the appointments were made, and when the recommendations were sent to him?—I apprehended that he knew generally what was going on in all the dockyards, though not of every little vacancy that might take place. In his own department I never interfered with him, the steam department.

1291. It was meant as a general phrase, "Your wishes would always have great weight with me," as to the general management of the dockyards, rather than with reference to any names recommended for promotion?—Yes; for instance, in the case of the master shipwright and the retirement of Mr. Fincham, the Surveyor brought forward names for the places to be filled up.

1292. Places for promotion?—Yes, they are the best places in the dockyards, and he submitted the names to the Lords of the Admiralty. They were not exactly the arrangements that I could have wished, and in some respects they were opposed to the suggestions of several of my friends; but I felt that the Surveyor had a right to be consulted; in short, to be supreme on such important appointments as those; therefore I waived all my own feelings, and acquiesced in his arrangements.

1293. Will you state when that vacancy occurred?—There was a move altogether, I think, in June.

1294. Then are the Committee to understand that you filled up the place of master shipwright, considering it a place that was directly under the Surveyor of the Navy, and of great importance to him, with some one whom he approved of?—He mentioned the names in the first instance. I do not know that it was exactly in my range of office; but had it not been for the weight which I felt was due to the Surveyor of the Navy on these subjects, I should have suggested to the First Lord, and brought before the Board a modification of that arrangement.

1295. Then are the Committee to understand that this vacancy to be filled up was submitted to the First Lord as a part of his patronage?—Yes, I suppose it was, to the First Lord.

1296. Then, if you had not approved of Sir Baldwin Walker having that appointment, you would so far have interfered as to suggest to the First Lord some other person to fill the vacancy?—Hardly some other person, but a different allocation of the same persons.

1297. You mean different arrangements as to the promotions?—Yes, a different arrangement as to the promotions; I mention that as one case which occurs to me. If the Committee chose to have before them the submissions from the Surveyor of the Navy, which I have signed at once without bringing them before the Board, or raising one single question upon them, they would find them to be very voluminous.

1298. Captain Milne's evidence rather misled the Committee upon the subject of the effect of cancelling the circular of 1849. At Question 612, Captain Milne certainly gave the Committee to understand (I certainly so understood it,) that previously to 1849, the recommendations for promotion sent up by the superintendents of the dockyards to the Admiralty were sent to the Surveyor of the Navy for his remarks; and he was asked, Question 612, "Do you consider that the Surveyor of the Navy should have an opportunity of making his remarks upon the appointments?—Certainly. 613. Upon the promotions?—Certainly. 614. You think it of minor importance whether they go first to him and then to the Admiralty, or first to the Admiralty and then to him?—Quite so, as long as they reach the department where the control must exist; as long as the Surveyor has the control of the expenditure of money in the yard, I think that he must have an ultimate control under the authority of the Admiralty"?—Yes. I deny that the Surveyor should have the control of the expenditure of money in the yard, that is to say, that the Surveyor should be answerable for the Estimates.

1299. The question rather is, what had been the practice of the department. The Committee have been given to understand, from the evidence, that the practice had previously been that the promotions sent up to the Admiralty were sent

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to the Surveyor of the Navy?—I believe it rested in the discretion of the Secretary of the Admiralty to send them as he thought proper.

1300. I will refer you to the minute that has been brought, in the General Minute Book, under the notice of the Committee. That minute referred to a letter from the Surveyor, requesting that all promotions should come through him to the Admiralty, instead of being forwarded from the Admiralty to him; does not it appear therefore that they had been previously forwarded from the Admiralty to him?—Yes; but there must have been a final jurisdiction, the jurisdiction always vested with the Admiralty.

1301. Does not that show that the recommendations from the superintendents of the dockyards were usually, when sent up, forwarded to the Surveyor?—Yes, they were frequently, in my case; not invariably in others.

1302. And on that account the minute of September 1849 was drawn up, saying that they should invariably be sent?—Then they came back again.

1303. And therefore three parties had an opportunity of giving their opinion upon the promotions, namely, first, the superintendent of the dockyard and the officers, then the Surveyor of the Navy, and then the authorities at the Admiralty?—Under the circular of 1849, that was the case.

1304. Under the circular which you issued, there were only two parties who had that opportunity, namely, the superintendent of the dockyard and the authorities at the Admiralty?—Very nearly; it practically came to that, but not altogether. It had the effect, at all events, of depreciating and weakening the influence of the Surveyor, except in his own department.

1305. You referred to vacancies, which vacancies, as I understood you to say, were often filled up without your knowing how they were filled up?—They were sometimes filled up without my knowledge. I can give an instance, I believe, in the case of some vacancies that were filled up at Woolwich.

1306. Do you mean vacancies in the yard, and that new persons were brought into the yard?—Yes, some labourers.

1307. When brought into the yard, what is the usual form in which that is done?—If the Committee will permit me, I would say with regard to those details of the patronage, it would be perhaps more convenient for them to examine my private secretary, Mr. Grant. He has been 11 years at the Admiralty, and he will furnish the Committee with far more definite and accurate information than I can upon these subjects.

1308. (To Mr. *Grant*.) What office do you hold?—I am a clerk in the Admiralty.

1309. And you have been there since when?—Since 1841.

1310. In what department of the Admiralty have you been?—I am in the Civil Department at present.

1311. Is that the department in which the appointments are made out?—No, it is not.

1312. It is not the department necessarily connected with the appointments?—No.

1313. Nor with the promotions?—No.

1314. Were you private secretary to any one else before you were private secretary to Mr. Stafford?—I was private secretary to Admiral Dundas when he was First Sea Lord, and to Admiral Stewart after that time.

1315. Having been private secretary to two Lords of the Admiralty successively, can you state to the Committee what course is pursued when there is a vacancy for labourers, for instance, in the dockyards?—The vacancy is in the first instance reported to the Admiralty.

1316. That vacancy was reported, was it not, from the superintendent of the dockyard through the Surveyor to the Admiralty?—Yes.

1317. Then upon that being done, what was the next step?—Upon that the Surveyor of the Navy reported the vacancy to the Admiralty, and then the patronage rested with the Secretary of the Admiralty, and he made a minute appointing whom he thought proper to fill it.

1318. Upon the submission of the vacancy existing?—Yes.

1319. Provided always, while it passed through the Surveyor's office, the Surveyor did not make a recommendation that the vacancy should not be filled up?—Exactly.

1320. As you were private secretary for some time, can you state whether, when the Surveyor had recommended that a vacancy should not be filled up, the Lords

Lords of the Admiralty yet proceeded to fill it up?—I cannot state any case that I recollect of that description.

1321. The usual course with regard to a vacancy, say of a labourer, was, when a vacancy was reported, as soon as the Secretary pleased he filled it up, and he named whom he pleased?—Yes.

1322. When a vacancy for a labourer was reported in the dockyards, were any names submitted at that time?—Not from the superintendent of the dockyards.

1323. Did the Surveyor ever recommend labourers to be introduced?—I am not aware that he did.

1324. (To Mr. *Stafford*.) As regards labourers in the dockyards, upon a vacancy arising, that would be always considered as fair patronage for the Secretary, would it not, for him to put in whom he pleased?—Yes.

1325. (To Mr. *Grant*.) You were going to give the Committee the case of a labourer who was put in, in some different manner, were you not?—I can state a case very much of that description, with reference to the evidence of the Surveyor of the Navy. The Surveyor of the Navy stated, that a certain number of sawyers were appointed to the Devonport Dockyard, those vacancies having been already filled up by some other means. In fact, he gave the Committee to believe that certain sawyers were displaced for the purpose of making room for others who were appointed by Mr. Stafford. With regard to this case, the Commodore Superintendent at Devonport, reported the existence of those vacancies for sawyers; but he did not state that any parties were filling those places, temporarily or otherwise; and Mr. Stafford therefore filled them up. The Surveyor of the Navy states, that it turned out that labourers were doing the duty of sawyers, and filling those places. It is possible that they were doing those duties and filling those places with the sanction of the superintendent, temporarily; but the Admiralty, or Mr. Stafford, was not aware of the fact, and that it is believed, as reported by the Commodore Superintendent, that vacancies actually existed; and that that is a case in which men might be got into the dockyard without any direct authority from the Admiralty.

1326. That, I think, is referred to by Sir Baldwin Walker, at Question 79, where he states that it occurred on the 26th of April 1852, and where he mentions those labourers who were advanced to be sawyers without having been recommended by the superintendent?—Yes.

1327. That was the case of labourers who were advanced to be sawyers?—No. It does not follow in the usual course that a labourer is advanced to be a sawyer; the regulations do not provide for that in any way. The Surveyor of the Navy led the Committee to believe that it was the natural course of promotion for a labourer to look forward to becoming a sawyer. But the Committee will find, on reference to the regulations of 1847, no mention was made of that matter; it is quite out of the usual course for labourers to look forward to becoming sawyers; some labourers may be fitted for that work, but it does not follow in the usual course of promotion.

1328. (To Mr. *Stafford*.) That took place after the issue of the circular of the 19th?—Yes.

1329. (To Mr. *Grant*.) Sir Baldwin Walker stated that those labourers were advanced to be sawyers without being recommended by the superintendent. As I understand, you do not consider that it was an advancement at all, but that they were made sawyers without being in an improved condition from being made sawyers?—Yes; vacancies were reported to exist for sawyers; they were looked upon as fresh vacancies; it might have happened that some labourers were appointed by the Secretary to fill those vacancies, but it did not follow as a matter of course that the vacancies would have been filled up by labourers; it might have happened that they were.

1330. Have you known frequent cases in which there being vacancies among the sawyers of a yard, fresh men were introduced when there were labourers doing the duty of sawyers?—It usually was the case that fresh men were introduced. The Admiralty never were aware probably, and certainly would not have filled up the places if they had been aware, that parties were already occupying those places.

1331 The Admiralty would not have filled up the places if they had been aware that labourers had been performing the duties who might be promoted to those places?—I can hardly say that. Unless the superintendent of the dockyard

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reports to the Admiralty that parties are filling the places, the Admiralty have no knowledge that they are there at all. The superintendent of the dockyard reports that certain vacancies exist for sawyers, and then the Admiralty fill them up either from a number of fresh hands, or from the yard.

1332. When those vacancies were reported they were reported from the superintendents of the yards, direct to the Admiralty. Can you recollect whether or not there was any notice in that letter stating that there were labourers who had been doing the duties of sawyers in that yard?—To the best of my recollection, certainly not.

1333. You believe that the letter merely stated that there were vacancies for so many sawyers?—Yes.

1334. So that the Secretary of the Admiralty might think it a fair occasion in which to exercise his patronage?—Precisely.

1335. With respect to the promotions on the 8th of May, at Question 41, in those cases it was stated, I think, that 10 names were submitted, and four of the 10 were selected for promotion?—At page 6 of the Parliamentary Paper (No. 272), containing the dockyard regulations of 1847, at the 3d paragraph, the Committee will see what is the course that is pursued in selecting men for promotion as leading men. The Committee will see that, after the examination of the parties who are anxious for the place, three are selected by the officers of the yard as the most qualified men. The names are submitted to the Commodore Superintendent, who scrutinizes them still further. Then he scratches his pen through one of those names, and sends up to the Admiralty the other two names for the selection of one. In the case of those 10 names that were sent up, there were evidently five vacancies. Two names were sent up for each vacancy, and the Admiralty were to select one for the purpose for each. The Surveyor of the Navy would, from his evidence, lead the Committee to believe that, in the selection of those five out of the 10, the regulations of 1847 were actually abused. It will be quite clear to the Committee, I think, when they read this paragraph which I have quoted, that those regulations were, in this case, strictly adhered to. In each case, the Secretary of the Admiralty selected one of the names sent up out of the two, which he had a perfect right to do by the regulations which I have quoted.

1336. Do you remember a case in which three names coming up, one with the pen of the superintendent of the dockyard struck through it, showing that the superintendent of the dockyard had struck out one name, that name was afterwards selected in preference to the others?—At this moment I do not recollect a case.

Sir *B. Walker*.] I may mention the case of Lacey, who had 18 years and 11 months of servitude, and who had been selected on three different occasions, selected 12 months before any of the other men were promoted, and yet he had been passed over.

1337-8. (To Mr. *Grant*.) In those cases, all the names being submitted by the superintendent, it was competent to the Secretary, was it not, as you understood it, to select any one he pleased from those three names?—To select one out of the two sent up.

1339. Four out of the 10?—Five out of the 10.

1340. In that case, what opportunity was there for the Surveyor of the Navy to state whether or not it was desirable that the vacancies should or should not be filled up?—The superintendent of the yard reported in the first instance whether the vacancy was necessary to be filled up. As to a particular case which I happen to remember, in which the Surveyor of the Navy's opinion and the opinion of the superintendent were rather at variance, I think the Surveyor rather complained in one part of his evidence of certain places for shipwrights being filled up, whereas those places were required for some apprentices. I think I have a recollection that the Commodore Superintendent at Woolwich, for it happened in that yard, in consequence of those 10 appointments having remained over a certain time, wrote rather an urgent letter to the Admiralty, calling attention to those vacancies, and stating the great necessity there existed for shipwrights to be appointed.

1341. The papers in reference to those promotions did come under the consideration of the Surveyor, because it appears that he notices it at Question 46?—Yes, he cited a letter he wrote: "I beg to return the enclosed letter, sent to me yesterday, and to observe that I do not concur in the selection of all the men named, as it appears to me that Mr. Lacey has a prior claim to promotion, having been

been recommended before any of those named in the letter of the 19th of April, whose servitude is greater than any except John Bristow."

1342. (To Mr. *Stafford.*) Did you see that notice made by the Surveyor of the Navy in reference to those promotions?—I dare say I may have seen it, but I have not had time to search the records of the Admiralty for that particular case.

1343. But at the time it came, before you filled up those vacancies, can you remember whether or not you saw the important remark made by the Surveyor of the Navy?—(Mr. *Grant.*) I can state to the Committee that I saw this, and also Mr. Stafford. I recollect, perfectly, seeing the paper with the remark of the Surveyor of the Navy upon it. The Surveyor of the Navy did not agree with the names that were intended to be selected by the superintendent *in toto*, and he said as much. But there was one particular case which I think appears upon the face of it to be most glaring, namely, the case of a man of 30 years service, who was sent up with another man with only two years, for the situation of writer in the Woolwich Dockyard, and Mr. Stafford proposed to select the man of two years service, in preference to the man of 30 years; and the Surveyor of the Navy dissented from that, and thought that the man of 30 years should have the preference. But before this appointment took effect, Mr. Stafford had an opportunity of ascertaining from the Commodore Superintendent at Woolwich, who had sent up those two names, both the men being qualified, that it was his private opinion that the man of two years service was more particularly suited for the situation, rather than the man of 30 years service; and, on those grounds, he appointed that man.

1344–5. (To Mr. *Stafford.*) Are the Committee to understand that the reason of Prowse being appointed, who had only served two, instead of William Stone who had 30 years service, was the recommendation of the superintendent of the dockyard?—In private conversation, I understood him to say so. It will be obvious that if a writer who has only been two years in the service is already on a par with a man who has been 30 years, which will make the best clerk of the two.

1346. I ask you, first, whether you then believed that in making that appointment you were acting in accordance with the opinion of the superintendent of the dockyard?—In accordance with the opinion of the superintendent of the dockyard, decidedly; and for the good of the service.

1347. Who was then the superintendent of the dockyard?—Commodore Eden; Commodore Eden officially was obliged to send up the names of the two men, and of course it was only as the result of my private communication with him that I exercised the discretion vested in the Admiralty, and apparently did an unpopular thing with regard to an old servant, but in this case the advantage was obvious.

1348. When you saw this opinion strongly expressed by the Surveyor of the Navy, and when you had at the Admiralty a person of such experience in dockyard management as Admiral Parker, did you consult him before you threw aside the recommendation of the Surveyor of the Navy?—No, I never consulted Admiral Parker on any dockyard appointments.

1349. Then are the Committee to understand, that you did not think it a part of your duty to notice in any way the remarks made by the Surveyor of the Navy on the subject of promotions?—I should hardly say that; I said before, that if the Committee required the papers of the promotions and appointments I had signed in consequence of the submissions of the Surveyor of the Navy, they would find them very bulky indeed.

1350. The Surveyor having sent this paper to the Admiralty with those remarks, did you reply in any way to him on the subject?—No, I think not, so far as I can remember; if I did, it was only verbally, when I met him; I do not recollect doing that even; I do not think I did by letter: certainly not.

1351–2. Do you recollect seeing those letters when they came from the Surveyor; those papers which are lost?—No. (Mr. *Grant.*) I think I can explain the course they would take. After the minute was made by the Secretary for the appointment of those men, the papers would be sent to the department of the Admiralty where those appointments are carried out. I think one gentleman stated, that after that has taken place, they do not go to Somerset House; and another stated that they did usually; but I think my knowledge will bear me out in saying, that after those appointments are executed and carried out, it is usual in that department to enclose them, for the information of the Surveyor, to Somerset House; that is the usual practice; there may have been some omissions; there-

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fore it is reasonable to suppose, that after this minute was executed, that the department enclosed it to the Surveyor of the Navy, and therefore that document might reasonably be traced back to his department, though he traces it to the Admiralty; still I can trace it back to his department for that reference, because it never appeared in the record office.

1353. Do you think that it never was sent from the Surveyor back to the Admiralty?—That I cannot say. It does not appear in the record office.

1354. Do you mean that those remarks of the Surveyor never came under the consideration of the Secretary?—No. They did; and upon that, those appointments were actually made and ratified, and a minute was made for them to be made; the course would then be for those letters to go to the Admiralty.

1355. Then are the Committee to understand that those papers came back with the recommendation of the Surveyor of the Navy that the appointments should not be made, and that other appointments should be made, and yet that the appointments were made and ratified?—Yes.

1356. But not the appointments, of course, that he recommended?—Exactly.

1357. (To Mr. *Stafford*.) There were two points in the recommendation of the Surveyor; first, that other names should be selected; and next, that the vacancies should be kept, because vacancies would be required for 15 shipwright apprentices. As to the selection of the names, you have given some reasons why you selected other names. At Question 65, I asked, "In what way did you return them (the papers)?—In the usual way; they were put into a box, and locked, which is opened at the Admiralty: it goes to the Board room. On the following day, those men were promoted. My submission ended as follows, 'Moreover, as vacancies will be required next month for about 15 of the shipwright apprentices, now under instruction at the central school, who have been promised the appointment of leading men on their leaving that school, I am of opinion that two vacancies at Woolwich should be reserved for these young men, and a proportionate number at the other yards, as they may occur.'" What notice or consideration did you give to that?—So far as my memory serves me, I believe the Commodore Superintendent reported them necessary.

1358. The Commodore Superintendent of which yard considered them necessary?—It says Woolwich.

1359. Two vacancies at Woolwich, and a proportionate number at other yards, were to be kept?—Yes.

1360. Were they required at all the yards then?—I cannot say that without reference to the papers.

1361. And the papers are lost?—Yes.

1362. Did you send the Surveyor any reply to his remarks, which seemed to tend to the economy of the public service?—I really do not remember that at this interval of time; I cannot remember; these sort of things were coming every day.

1363. Was it every day that the Surveyor of the Navy was remonstrating against the Government filling up vacancies?—No. It is possible that the papers on these subjects are at the different yards.

1364. There would be copies at the dockyards, but would the original papers be sent back to the yards?—No, I think not.

1365. Copies would not contain the remarks of the Surveyor?—They might contain the remarks of the superintendent.

1366. But not the remarks of the Surveyor; and not show whether any notice had been taken by the authorities at the Admiralty of those remarks of the Surveyor?—No, they would not.

1367. With respect to the case of Ridgeway, at Chatham; it is stated that Ridgeway was promoted to be acting first-class without the recommendation of the officers, who reported him not competent to fill that situation; was that the case?—(Mr. *Grant*.) A vacancy for a first-class man at the metal mills was reported to the Admiralty, and the Captain Superintendent recommended that a man from the private trade should be selected to fill it. Representations were made to the Secretary of the Admiralty that the senior second-class man at the metal mills, namely, Ridgeway, who had been upwards of 39 years in the service, was a proper man to fill this vacancy.

1368. By whom were those representations made?—From certain parties; friends of mine.

1369. What parties?—I have no hesitation in saying that Sir Frederic Smith represented

represented that it was in consequence of the political views held by Ridgeway, that the superintendent of the yard proposed that a man from the private trade should be brought in, to keep him out of his just promotion.

1370. Sir Frederic Smith represented to the Admiralty that the superintendent of the yard was acting politically against him?—Hardly that. I was informed by Sir Frederic Smith that it had been represented to him that the recommendation was made with the view of passing over Ridgeway, who was the senior man for promotion, and the consequence was, that instead of the recommendation of the superintendent for a man to be selected from the private trade being attended to, Ridgeway being the senior second class man of the metal mills was appointed, not actually appointed as a permanent first-class man, but to ensure that an incompetent man should not be put into the place he was appointed, acting on probation. That appointment took place about April in the year 1852. I think when the Secretary left office, as far as the documents in the office go, they show that Ridgeway still held the place, and no report had ever been made against him.

1371. (To Mr. *Stafford*.) Taking the representation of Sir Frederic Smith, and passing over the observations of the superintendent of the yard, was, in your opinion, acting in accordance with the circular of 1847?—Yes; because that circular made no mention whatever of taking men from the private trade; on the contrary, the spirit of it was all against it.

1372. Did not the superintendent of the yard report that Ridgeway was not competent to fill that situation?—Yes.

1373. Was it in accordance with the circular of 1847 to put a man in a situation for which he was not competent?—He was hardly reported not competent, I think.

1374. Do you remember the report of the superintendent. This question was put (Question 92), "Have you got that recommendation here, or a note?—He was reported by the officers as not competent; and the superintendent wrote to the Admiralty a confidential report, stating that this man was not competent for the duty, and it would be an injury to the public service if he was advanced. He wrote on the 8th of April, and on the 11th the appointment was ordered to go forward." Did you receive that letter?—Yes, I did receive a letter from Captain Richards, complaining of the appointment, and I wrote the following letter to him: "H. M. S. Retribution, off Portland, 11th April 1852. Sir,—I fully appreciate the motives that dictated your letter of the 8th. The appointment of Ridgeway must now go forward; and if he is found incompetent to perform the duties of the situation, it will of course devolve upon you to report officially to that effect. I remain, &c., *Augustus Stafford*."

1375. At Question 320, I refer you to Admiral Parker's Evidence, where he was asked, "Will you state more specifically the nature of the complaints that Captain Richards made to you?—I really cannot call to mind the particular complaint; but I recollect his stating that he had represented that a man was unfit for a situation; but he was censured for having done so, and ordered to retain the man in the yard." Do you recollect sending such a letter to Captain Richards?—No; the Committee would hardly call that a censure. The letter which I have just read was the only letter I sent. It was always a dispute between the Admiralty and the superintendents of different dockyards, in I believe two other cases, as to the introduction of men from the private trade. There was no censure of Captain Richards in the letter I have read. On the contrary, I said that I fully appreciated the motives that influenced him.

1376. You think, do you not, that Admiral Parker was wrong in considering the letter sent back to Captain Richards as a censure upon him, for stating the man to be unfit?—Quite so. Far from wishing to censure him, the answer I gave to the Committee is fully appreciating his motives. I had a letter the other day from Captain Richards, asking permission from me to put in this confidential letter, that he wrote as to Ridgeway, and I said he was at perfect liberty to do so.

1377. Had you any reason to believe that Captain Richards was acting politically against Sir Frederic Smith?—I had reason to believe that political influences were at work against Ridgeway.

1378. Did you think that the superintendent of the dockyard was a party to that political influence; because if he was not, his opinion should have been

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taken, should it not?—Captain Richards was always looked upon as one of the strongest political partizans in the yard; the notion was that.

1379. Did you inquire from any other person except Sir Frederic Smith, whether or not Captain Richards had taken any part in politics?—I did not ask Sir Frederic Smith what he did.

1380. But Sir Frederic Smith, as I understand, represented that Ridgeway's chance was lessened by his political inclinations?—Yes.

1381. Then it was natural to inquire whether the superintendent of the dockyard was taking or had taken any part in politics in that yard, was it not?—Or the officers under the superintendent.

1382. Was not a very strong letter written to the officers and superintendents not to take a part in politics?—Yes.

1383. If Captain Richards, in defiance of that order, was covertly taking a part in politics, he was doing what was a great violation of his duty, was he not?—Your Lordship has used the word "covertly."

1384. Yes; you say that you do not know that he acted openly; you said that some persons did use influence?—Some persons did use influence; so it was represented to me.

1385. Do you think that Captain Richards was one of the persons who used influence?—I could not say that he was.

1386. Did you think that persons had unjustly represented to him the incapacity of Ridgeway for promotion?—I do not think incapacity, he had been retired from the experiment; his experimental situation; and therefore as he would have been for six months' probation, I thought he might have it; and he remained there nine months and incurred no censure.

1387. On the 7th of April 1853, he was ordered to return to his former place, was not he?—Yes, but that is a year; six months is the general trial. In this letter I said to Captain Richards, "The appointment of Ridgeway must now go forward, and if he is found incompetent to perform the duties of the situation, it will of course devolve upon you to report officially to that effect." When the six months were over, I thought Captain Richards had found Ridgeway better than he imagined.

1388. Having appointed a man whom the superintendent reported incompetent, did you take care, after six months had elapsed, to have a special report upon his case?—No; because I directed Captain Richards to report officially.

1389. But Captain Richards, having given one opinion before, and having received, as it was conceived by Admiral Parker, to be a rebuff, was it to be expected that without a further letter, he would again report upon that man?—It is for the Committee to judge whether Captain Richards required any further letter than this to encourage him to report officially. I desire Captain Richards to report. I give no limit to the time. He might have then reported in a week or a month. I say, "The appointment of Ridgeway must now go forward, and if he is found incompetent to perform the duties of the situation, it will, of course, devolve upon you to report officially to that effect."

1390. Was this probationary?—Yes.

1391. For six months?—Yes.

1392. Sir *B. Hall.*] Was it made out on probation?—I believe so.

1393. Is there any record to show whether it was an actual promotion, or a promotion on probation?—I think so. I have not looked at the case since I was out of office. I cannot answer for the warrant; I can answer for this letter.

1394. Here is the letter of the superintendent of the dockyard, who has declared the man perfectly incompetent for the situation; he is appointed by the Secretary of the Admiralty, and though the superintendent remonstrates against that appointment, the Secretary of the Admiralty says that the appointment must go forward; what I want to know is, whether the appointment of Ridgeway, who had been declared incompetent, was made out as a probationary appointment, or as an actual appointment of promotion?—The Committee will get that beyond dispute, by referring to the Admiralty. All I can say is, if there is any meaning in the words, that he would be reported on soon afterwards.

1395. *Chairman.*] I would refer you to Question 140; that is the case of a furnace man at Chatham, who was promoted to be a forgeman; he was reported not qualified by the superintendent, and his letter was, "On these grounds, and believing William Groves not properly qualified, I respectfully submit my opinion that his being placed in the present vacancy could not fail to operate prejudicially

to

to the public service" (Q. 140). That was the 10th of May; do you remember receiving that report?—Yes, I think I do. I should wish the Committee to call for the report of the officers of the yard upon that subject.

1396. Just before those words which have just been read are these words: "I quite concur in the opinion expressed by the officers on the preference to be given to an expert forgeman from private trade, who could instruct and improve our people;" does not that seem to show that the officers of the yard, equally with the superintendent, desired some other person to be appointed than William Groves?—It is again, as the Committee will see, the question of the private trade.

1397. So far as the question is concerned, it is a question of the private trade; but the superintendent of the dockyard states William Groves not to be properly qualified?—My attention has not been particularly called to these things, and I should be very much obliged to the Committee if they would let me see the papers. They are both in reference to the private trade. The regulations of 1847 did not contemplate the entrance of men from the private trade.

1398. This letter from the superintendent is evidently with reference to a former letter, because it commences, "With reference to their Lordships' directions of the 5th instant to state whether William Groves, who is a furnace-man, is qualified to fill the existing vacancy of forgeman, I have the honour to enclose copies of the officer's representations," &c. Does not that show that some application had been made from the Lords of the Admiralty upon that subject; or, at least, from the Admiralty, upon that subject?—Yes, I think it does.

1399. The letter of the 5th instant?—Yes, which I should be glad to see.

1400. He was promoted upon an inquiry from the superintendent of the dockyard, which inquiry ended in the superintendent of the dockyard, and in the officers of the dockyard, recommending that he should not be promoted?—Yes, it seems so.

1401. That happening on the 10th of May, do you think that it was not natural that Captain Richards should be shy of sending up to the Admiralty further observations upon persons in the dockyard?—No, I think not. I think if this had gone on Captain Richards would have addressed a letter, if the appointments were going on in this way, which he considered improper altogether. Two cases, as the Committee will see, selected by themselves, may seem a good many; but if there were constantly other cases in which Captain Richards's suggestions were entirely attended to, they would be, when presented day after day, less disagreeable than those two cases appear to the Committee when selected and isolated from a number that we do not know of, from accounts with Captain Richards, which we are not aware of until we have the whole of the papers before the Committee. The Committee will not understand that I complain of the course adopted, or the course that the Surveyor adopts; the examination of those apointments generally would perhaps be troublesome to the Committee; but at the same time it would enable them to arrive at a juster conclusion than if merely what I may call exceptions are produced before the Committee.

1402. Having this brought to your notice by the letter of the 10th of May (I think that was about the date, within a day or two of that time), when you stated that you then saw a letter from the Surveyor to the Duke of Northumberland?—I do not recollect when it was that I saw the letter; I have no remembrance at all of the date of my seeing that letter; but I think in fairness I ought to add, that I think that letter was probably shown to me by the Duke of Northumberland soon after he received it, but for a day or a week I could not in the least tell.

1403. That letter containing a statement from the Surveyor of the Navy that you or some one high in authority at the Admiralty was exercising an influence calculated to tarnish his administration, did you not then enter into some inquiry so as to enable you to lay before the First Lord a justification of the course you were taking?—It is not from any hesitation in answering the Committee that I pause; but the Committee will see that this letter is treated as strictly confidential by the Duke of Northumberland; and I had a letter recently from him, stating that he should so consider it. I may say fairly and openly to the Committee that I was exceedingly annoyed, when I read that letter, to find that the Duke insisted upon considering it as a confidential letter, for it brought charges against me which I was very anxious to meet at the time; but when the Duke chose to say that he considered it as confidential, I was placed in an exceedingly disagreeable position, without any blame to his Grace for deciding that it should be confidential,

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knowing the existence of a letter that contained very grave charges against me, of which it was not possible for me to bring forward any refutation. There was nothing that vexed me more than knowing that there were those charges recorded against me, and no power of answering them permitted to me.

1404. Could you not have gone, having such a charge brought against you, through all the promotions that had taken place during the short time that you were Secretary of the Admiralty, and have brought them privately under the consideration of the First Lord, in order that he might judge for himself as to the truth of those accusations?—I did, I believe, as far as I can recollect, but the intercourse on all those subjects was strictly confidential; and the Committee will see, that if the First Lord thought it was necessary to move in the matter, he would not have made the letter private.

1405. It was a letter from the Surveyor to the First Lord, and he had it in his power to make it private or public?—Yes.

1406. And he determined upon making it private?—Yes.

1407. Had you not power, being Secretary of the Admiralty, to call for every document in the Admiralty, or in the dockyards, or in Somerset House, that would serve to make out a report which would perfectly have vindicated your character in his view?—That I did vindicate my character in his view, may be shown from the fact of his not making the letter public; what I did to explain the circumstances of the case was all verbal.

1408. Did the Duke of Northumberland when he stated to you that he had received that letter, request you to inquire, as the letter being made private or public would, of course depend upon the result of that inquiry?—No.

1409. Did he ever tell you that he thought of making it a public letter?—No.

1410. Do you think that the further inquiries you made so satisfied his Grace, that he did not, on that account, make it a public letter; or do you think that he determined, when he first saw the letter, as he first told you, not to make it a public letter?—I think he determined at once not to make it a public letter; I asked him if it was to be a public letter, and he said, "No." That was so much against what I should have wished at the time, that I do not believe I ever mentioned it again to him.

1411. Of course, making such a letter public, would have necessitated a very public inquiry at the Admiralty?—Of course.

1412. Cannot you conceive many reasons why the Duke should not have wished, in a great public department, to have such a public inquiry as that made?—Yes, many reasons. The Committee will not imagine that I am pronouncing an opinion upon the Duke for determining to keep that letter private; that was one of the inconveniences I was subject to; seeing such a letter, and still finding it to be private. Much rather would I that the Duke had never shown it to me, or else have made it public.

1413. Did it occur to you to prepare a report for his Grace equally private, to be recorded and kept with that letter, or the reply to that letter?—No. All that occurred to me was to make me more careful for the future.

1414. Did you ever ask the Duke to make it a public letter?—To the best of my belief, I did.

1415. Do you remember what reply he gave; did he formally decline?—Yes, he declined, so far as I recollect. I think his words were, "You have no right to suppose that you have ever seen it," or something like that.

1416. Sir *B. Hall.*] Did he give any reasons?—Not at all.

1417. Did you press it urgently upon his Grace?—When his Grace answered me in that sort of way, it was final.

1418. You say that it was of essential importance to you that this letter should be made public?—I did not say that. I felt its importance. I said that it was a great personal inconvenience to me that it was not made public.

1419. Did you ever press it with energy upon his Grace to make that letter public?—I asked him to make it public; I could do no more.

1420. Did he give any particular reasons other than those which you have mentioned, for not making it public?—No.

1421. None?—He gave me to understand, finally and decisively, that he would not make it public.

1422. Did he give you to understand that it would be inconvenient for the public service that the letter should be made public?—He did not give me any reasons.

1423. *Chairman.*]

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1423. *Chairman.*] Did you see any other letters from the superintendents of dockyards remonstrating against the course of the promotion that was taking place?—No. This letter from Captain Richards was the only one I ever received, and I think the only one I ever saw, so far as I can recollect. I stated so in the House of Commons, and I still retain that belief most implicitly. I argue from that, that any mistakes I might have made on the commencement of my office, were remedied as I got more accustomed to the duties of it; and I believe the Committee will find, if they will undertake the great and laborious task of examining the corespondence with the dockyards, that as I grew more and more accustomed to the office, I was more and more in accord with the general feelings of the superintendents; certainly there were no other letters.

1424. The First Lord did not show you any other letters remonstrating against the course of promotion?—Not that I recollect. It was my wish to gain a personal familiarity with the superintendents as much as I could, and to encourage them to write to me individually, and when they wished for any explanations, to make their applications to me. That was my feeling as to the dockyard officers generally.

Martis, 3° *die Maii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Lord Hotham.
Sir Benjamin Hall.	Mr. Beckett.
Sir Henry F. Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, called in; and further Examined.

Sir *B. Walker.*

3 May 1853.

1425. *Chairman.*] YOU have a letter that you wish to read to the Committee, respecting a question that arose between you and Admiral Parker, in this room?—Yes. "Admiralty, May 2, 1853. My dear Walker, I regret I made a mistake about your making use of my three letters. I was not aware, when I said before the Committee, that I had only given you permission to make use of one letter, that the three letters were all on the subject of the master smith. You are, therefore, perfectly at liberty to make use of the three before the Committee. Yours, very sincerely, *Hyde Parker.*" I was anxious to give that explanation with reference to what took place yesterday; and I wish to ask Mr. Stafford's permission to read a letter which he addressed to me on the 28th of November, on Sunday, with reference to what took place yesterday.—(Mr. *Stafford.*) Sir Baldwin Walker has my full permission to read that letter.—(Sir *Baldwin Walker.*) "Admiralty, November 28. Dear Sir Baldwin, As no official message has arrived to the letter you received from the Board on Friday last, on the subject of your communication of that date, I send you this unofficial note, which I trust you will read in the same friendly spirit as actuates its writer. Admiral Berkeley has given me notice of a motion on the subject of your correspondence with the Board of Admiralty, and he may to-morrow raise in the House of Commons the question of its existence or non-existence. I cannot, therefore, let another Board-day pass without another official letter to you or from you; but if you will call here before the Board meets, *i. e.* before half-past eleven to-morrow, I think I can point out a course of proceeding which may be adopted without the least annoyance to yourself or to any one else. We cannot of course control the proceedings of our political opponents, but it is absolutely necessary that the several departments of this important establishment should at once be brought into harmony with each other. My only objects are to carry out the instructions of my Government, and to avoid as much as possible giving pain to any one. I shall be glad to see you any time after nine o'clock. Truly yours, (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*"

[The Witness withdrew.

Mr. *George Cotsell*, called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *G. Cotsell.*

3 May 1853.

1426. *Chairman.*] YOU stated, did you not yesterday, in your examination, that the surveyor had led you to believe that your desire to be removed to Portsmouth was favourably considered by him, or some words to that effect?—So far as my memory serves me, I stated that I had been induced to hope, from communications from the surveyor's department, that I should have his support whenever the vacancy occurred.

1427. As this point is rather important, it is desirable that you should state to the Committee from whom you had that information?—I stated yesterday that it was Mr. Collings. He is in the Accountant-general's department, I believe; I am not quite sure; I think that is it.

1428. Did he write to you to this effect?—Yes.

1429. Have you got the letter?—Yes, I have it.

1430. Is it here?—Yes.

1431. Can you produce that letter?—There is a series of letters, inasmuch as I stated yesterday, that from 1848 I have been in communication with reference to this subject; and perhaps the Committee will bear with me while I state the grounds upon which I have been so long in communication. When my appointment was made out in 1846, for the Chatham Dockyard, Mr. Fincham, the then master shipwright of the Portsmouth Dockyard, was at the Board, and understanding that my appointment was being made out, or was made out for Chatham, he expressed a wish to have me at Portsmouth; and as he related the circumstance to me, he caused the warrant to be held back for a day or two, in order, as he stated, that he might go to Portsmouth, consult with Mr. Tyler, the then master smith of Portsmouth, with a view to the exchange to Chatham Dockyard, so that my appointment might be made to Portsmouth, he having understood from Mr. Tyler that he would be anxious to exchange to Chatham, Chatham being his native place. When Mr. Fincham arrived at Portsmouth Dockyard, from what cause I cannot explain, Mr. Tyler had changed his mind, and then refused to effect the exchange which Mr. Fincham was desirous of effecting. Mr. Fincham then wrote to the Board (or to whomsoever it was that allowed the delay), stating that he had been unsuccessful in endeavouring to effect an exchange, and he desired consequently that the appointment of Cotsell to Chatham might take place, but he added, "Whenever a vacancy at Portsmouth shall occur, and you are disposed to come to Portsmouth, I will at all times do my best to get you here." Mr. Fincham said that.

1432. You have been asked to produce the letter from Mr. Collings to you, stating that the surveyor of the navy was favourable to your wish to be removed to Portsmouth?—Those letters are on general subjects, on family matters; I shall have no objection to produce the letter, but perhaps an extract will do for the present occasion; but if the Committee insist upon the production of the letter itself, I have it here.

1433. You must produce the letter.

[*The same was handed in, and read, as follows:*]

Admiralty, Somerset House,
13 April 1852.

My dear Cotsell,

I HAVE resumed my duties to-day, after having been confined several days at home with inflamed eyes; I cannot write much, but, knowing your anxiety, will not omit to inform you what I have heard since my return here.

Your letter, applying for the change, was received here last Wednesday, and Sir B. Walker very considerately directed it should stand over until Mr. Tyler's papers come from Portsmouth; they were received only yesterday, now, therefore, the case is complete. You will be gratified to know that Sir Baldwin has received a letter from Mr. Fincham, applying for you in very earnest terms, and all I can tell you more, is, that up to the present time no obstacle has presented itself to your request being complied with. The Surveyor himself is very desirous of doing it, and as it will not interfere with patronage of any kind, he does not foresee any objection on the part of those in power; on the whole, the matter is surely in as fair a train as it possibly can be, and, albeit I am not unmindful of the old adage about the cup and the lip, sincerely hope that I may, before long, have to congratulate you as Master Vulcan of Portsmouth Dockyard.

1434. That is the letter which induced you to believe that the Surveyor of the Navy was favourable to your transfer to Portsmouth?—Yes.

1435. Have you any other letters to the same purport?—I have one more, at a subsequent

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a subsequent date to that; I ought to premise, before reading this letter, which is dated the 25th of September, that I had written to my friend, finding that the appointment of Mr. Wells had really taken place, regretting that I had lost the appointment, and expressing some fears that something like unfair play had been the cause of it, and he wrote me this letter, which is too long to read; I will read that part which refers to the case.

1436. Is this letter from the same person?—Yes.

1437. This was after the appointment of Mr. Wells, was not it?—After the appointment of Mr. Wells had appeared in the papers. He says, "Now the point on which I am not positively informed is, whether the Board determined to have a man from the private trade, and directed the surveyor to seek for an eligible man to fill the situation; if this should prove to be the case, and I am warranted in presuming it to be so from Sir Baldwin's words to me, which were these, as near as I can recollect, 'Collings, you are the very man I wanted to see; I am sorry to tell you that the Board has resolved to fill up the vacancy at Portsmouth from the private trade; I know you are interested for Mr. Cotsell, at Chatham, and in consideration of his merits, as well as your request, (mind, this I had been told some time before by Mr. Eden, in confidence,) I recommend Mr. Cotsell's removal from Chatham to Portsmouth, but they have set it aside, for which I am very sorry.' To this I replied that they had been a long time in making up their minds, and that it seemed to me that their object in employing masters from the private trade, would be quite as effectually answered by putting the new man into Chatham Yard, to which he replied, that 'they had been a long time in coming to a decision, but that their first intention was not to fill up the vacancy at Portsmouth at all.'"

1438. Lord *Hotham.*] Is that all that relates to the subject?—Yes, that relates to the filling up; the other is a mere expression of the opinion or sentiments of the writer.—(*The letter was handed to the Chairman.*)

1439. This letter from Mr. Collings states that if he finds his suspicions justified upon further examination, he shall write to you again; and he says, "I shall sit down with the painful reflection, that I have been indeed deceived by a man whom I have known for twenty years, and whom I should have trusted as implicitly as I could trust myself." Did Mr. Collings write to you after this, and say that he had made a discovery which led him to such an opinion?—He wrote me subsequently, whilst I was at Portsmouth; I have not the letter with me, in which he intimated that he was afraid he must sit down under that reflection.

1440. Having brought these letters, and the one to which you have last referred being a very important letter, why did you not bring that also to the Committee?—These led up to the appointment, and that one exactly relates the appointment itself; I did not go beyond the appointment.

1441. This is after the appointment?—Yes; but it goes to relate the circumstance of the appointment. I was appointed on the 1st of October, and went to Portsmouth about the 5th or 6th. What I received while at Portsmouth, of course was so long after that date, that I have not introduced them into the matter; but the Committee can have that letter if they particularly wish for it.

1442. Have you been long acquainted with Mr. Collings?—As I stated yesterday, he is a relation of mine, on my wife's side.

1443. Have you, among your letters, the letter to which you referred from Mr. Piers?—No; that letter, I think, was destroyed, with those that I burnt while at Portsmouth, considering the thing done with.

1444. How long have you been acquainted with Mr. Piers?—Ten or 12 years.

[The Witness withdrew.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, further Examined.

Sir B. Walker.

1445. *Chairman.*] YOU have heard the evidence of Mr. Cotsell?—Yes.

1446. He referred to a conversation of yours with Mr. Collings?—Yes.

1447. Who was interested on his account?—Yes.

1448. Had you such a conversation with Mr. Collings?—I had a conversation with Mr. Collings; I think it was in April; a memorial was forwarded from Mr. Cotsell to the Admiralty, praying to be removed to Portsmouth, and I think Mr. Collings saw me on that occasion; I had also a letter from Mr. Fincham, the

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master shipwright at Portsmouth, expressing a wish that as Mr. Cotsell had served in the yard with Mr. Fincham at Chatham, Mr. Cotsell might be transferred to Portsmouth. At that time I saw no objection to his being transferred to Portsmouth.

1449. In the second letter of Mr. Collings, namely, the letter of the 26th of September 1852, he uses these words: "I tell him (Sir Baldwin Walker) as in my opinion an additional claim on your part, that you had been brought up in Portsmouth Yard, and removed on promotion to Devonport. To my surprise, I am told that this is an objection, for it was always considered unadvisable to promote a man to a chief place in a yard where he had filled a subordinate situation. I argue this point, and finally get the surveyor to do what he can to waive this objection." Had you any conversation with Mr. Collings, that you can remember, on that point?—I perfectly remember the conversation, and when Mr. Collings first spoke to me it was at the time the memorial was received, and also the letter from the master shipwright at Portsmouth. On that occasion, I told Mr. Collings I was not aware of any objection to Mr. Cotsell being removed to Portsmouth; it was only afterwards that I discovered from Admiral Hyde Parker, that Mr. Cotsell had been promoted out of that yard while he was superintendent, and that at once decided the question; it being a rule laid down, where it is possible to be carried out, that when a man is advanced after serving in a junior grade, it is not desirable that he should return to the same yard. When I spoke to Mr. Collings, at the time Mr. Cotsell's memorial was forwarded, I was not aware that Mr. Cotsell had been promoted out of Portsmouth Dockyard; and before that, when the appointment of Mr. Wells took place, I met Mr. Collings in the passage of the Admiralty, and told him it had been decided that Mr. Cotsell was not to go to Portsmouth, as he had been promoted out of that yard. He expressed his astonishment, and said, "Are you aware that Mr. Stafford promised Mr. Cotsell, in the presence of Sir Frederic Smith, that he should go to Portsmouth?" I said I knew nothing about Mr. Stafford's promises. I think that was all that took place.

1450. Can you remember the date when Admiral Hyde Parker brought to your notice the importance of taking a person from a private yard?—I think it was in August, as I stated before; I think the first time was in August.

1451. Lord *Hotham.*] Is it the rule now, that an officer shall never go back to a yard in which he has held an inferior appointment?—Not exactly the rule; it is from the feeling that he would not have that influence over the workmen which is so desirable.

1452. Then, if a man had begun life at Portsmouth Dockyard, would that be a bar to his going back to that yard at any period?—I do not know that it is always adhered to, but it is considered desirable not to do so.

1453. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] It was not, I believe, till August, that Admiral Hyde Parker's attention was particularly called to the state of the smitheries, in consequence of visiting Woolwich Dockyard, and being very much pleased with the appearance of the smithery there?—I am not positive whether he visited Woolwich in August. It was in August he communicated to me the decision, as to selecting a man from the private trade.

1454. Probably, in consequence of this admission from Commodore Eden, with reference to the smithery at Woolwich?—The question had been gone into generally, and Admiral Hyde Parker had been informed that a previous Board had decided to select the master smith for Woolwich, and also for Devonport; and it was in consequence of the report of the state of the smitheries, that it was decided to select a man.

1455. In April, when you thought Mr. Cotsell a proper man to be appointed, that question had not been raised, as to getting a man from the private trade?—No, it had not; I was not aware that the man had been retired from Portsmouth in April. I do not now recollect the date of the man being retired. I think it was after April that he was retired.

1456. *Chairman.*] Have you no memorandum to enable you to find out the date?—Not here.

1457. You did speak to Mr. Collings, upon the subject of his relation, Mr. Cotsell's desire to be transferred?—Yes, I did. Mr. Collings sent to speak to me, and he came into my room and said, as Cotsell had forwarded a memorial, and Mr. Fincham was in favour of his removal, he hoped it would be arranged.

1458. Do you recollect when that conversation took place?—Some months before;

before; I think about April, I am not positive. It was just at the time that Mr. Cotsell's memorial was sent.

1459. Mr. Cotsell's memorial was about the 2d of April?—Yes; it was about the same time.

1460. Mr. Cotsell's memorial was forwarded to you; was it?—I think it was forwarded through me.

1461. Was it forwarded to you from Mr. Cotsell, or from the Superintendent?—From the Superintendent of the Yard at Chatham.

1462. That was the regular course?—Yes, it was forwarded in official form.

1463. It appears to be "Chatham Dockyard, 5th April 1852." This was a letter to Mr. Stafford, the Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes.

1464. Sent to you?—It came to my department, whether it came direct or afterwards I cannot state; I can tell the Committee the date of its receipt at my office.

1465. You received this, did you not, on the 6th of April?—It was early in April.

1466. Having received it early in April, when did you send it on to the Admiralty, or what did you do with it?—I think it stood over till the question was mooted about filling up the vacancy at Portsmouth, which was not done for some time. The first foreman performed the duty for some time after the master smith was retired; the master smith was in a bad state of health; it was some time before he was retired, only it was with reference to the memorial that Admiral Hyde Parker said, "No, it is impossible for Mr. Cotsell to go back to Portsmouth; he was promoted out of the yard when I was superintendent there."

1467. You do not recollect whether you sent on this memorial to the Admiralty which you received early in April?—No, I do not; my impression is, that the memorial was brought before Admiral Hyde Parker, when the question was decided about Mr. Cotsell not going to Portsmouth.

1468. Your impression is, that Admiral Hyde Parker, when it was brought before him, objected to such a transfer?—Yes, he did, most decidedly.

1469-70. Did you, after such an objection, retain the memorial in your office, or did you send it on to the Admiralty?—I think the memorial got mixed with other papers; my impression is, that the memorial was not produced till Mr. Wells had been appointed. I think Captain Hamilton had that memorial in his room, and that when I sent to the office for it, Mr. Eden found that memorial mixed with some other papers.—(Mr. *Eden.*) Yes, I did.

1471. *Chairman.*] Would the memorial bear upon its face anything that would show when it arrived at the Admiralty?—Yes, the number will decide when it was received, and when it was received at Somerset House.

1472. Having been received at Somerset House, would the document show when it was transmitted from Somerset House to the Admiralty; is there a mark to show?—I have no doubt there is a memorandum.

1473. The only mark of the Admiralty that I see upon it is, "Record Office, 29th January 1853;" that would, therefore, be the time when it got to the Record department?—Yes. Captain Hamilton had that memorial in his hand in September, about the time Mr. Wells was appointed to Portsmouth.

1474. The stamp of the Record Office would not show when the paper arrived from Somerset House at the Admiralty, unless it went direct to the Record Office?—No.

1475. Is this paper one of those that would go direct to the Record Office?—It ought to go, after having been decided, immediately to the Record Office.

1476. When it went from Somerset House, would it go straight from your office to the Record Office; you would forward it, as I understand you, to the Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes; my impression is, that I put that memorial into Captain Hamilton's hands in September 1852, and that I have never seen it since.

1477. You have stated that Admiral Hyde Parker considered it objectionable, and you yourself considered it objectionable, to put a man in a higher station in a place where he had acted in a lower grade; was that the rule that had been generally acted upon at the Admiralty?—I think it has been done whenever it has been possible; in some instances it is very difficult to do it. I think, since I have been in the department, it has generally been acted upon; and that was the opinion of the Committee of Revision, of which I was a member.

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1478. We have not seen the Report of that Committee of Revision?—It has never been made public; but I have no doubt that the First Lord would have no objection to produce that Report; it was not considered a public Report.

1479. Was the same rule observed in the dockyards as in vessels; was an officer promoted to a superior grade in the same ship, or was there any analogy between the appointments in dockyards and the appointments in ships?—I think the Admiralty never promote a person into the same ship, if he can be removed into another; particularly in command at the head. It is a general rule, that I have seen almost invariably carried out, except upon foreign stations, when there is no other person to replace.

1480. In those cases, a man is occasionally promoted to a superior grade in the same ship?—Occasionally, it cannot be avoided; perhaps there is no person; a vacancy occurs in a ship, and he is the person entitled, and he cannot be removed to another.

1481. Do you remember a case of a person having been promoted in the same ship?—I do not recollect; not in command; I have no doubt there are cases, but I cannot call one to mind.

1482. Did it ever happen to yourself in command?—No.

1483. Lord *Hotham.*]. In inferior situations it does happen?—Frequently; such as where a midshipman has been made a lieutenant.

1484. In the case of warrant officers?—Yes; but it is not considered desirable; there are instances on foreign stations.

1485. *Chairman.*] The rule as to the dockyards is analogous to the rule as to ships; was there any order of the Admiralty upon the subject?—No, I am not aware that there is any order; I think it is the natural conclusion one would come to, that a man who has worked in an inferior grade is not supposed to have that power and influence over a man who has been working as his equal.

1486. As I understand you, this rule as regards the dockyards was founded upon the Report of the Committee of Revision?—I am not prepared to say that it was founded upon the Report; it was the impression of the Committee of Revision, I think; but it is not in the Report. It will be found in the minutes of that Committee. I know that the subject was considered on several occasions during our round of the dockyards, and that was the impression of every member.

1487. What was your practice in regard to the reports and memorials received from the dockyard, as to forwarding them to the Admiralty; suppose, for instance, the report from Captain Richards, containing the memorial of George Cotsell, which you received early in April, would not any document in your office show when it was forward to the Admiralty?—Yes, it ought, certainly; but in the case of that memorial, if a vacancy had not occurred, that memorial would stand over till the subject was gone into, and how the vacancy was to be filled up. That memorial ought, in the proper course, to have been transmitted with any submission that I made for the Board's consideration. My impression is, that a vacancy did not exist at that time.

1488. Is there any submission of yours with it?—No; it would be enclosed with the other papers.

1489. Did you make any submission with it?—No, I do not think I did, if it is not on that paper; I might have enclosed it when I made the submission about Wells, but that question was gone into with Admiral Hyde Parker, when the question was mooted about filling up the vacancy at Portsmouth. My impression is, that that memorial was brought forward at that time.

1490. Will you state what is the usual practice when you receive a memorial in that way?—If they are memorials which can be answered at once, without waiting for any vacancy occurring, I generally make a submission, which is forwarded direct to the Admiralty.

1491. If it is a memorial which is contingent upon a vacancy, you put it aside?—It stands over. There is a case in point, the vacancy for the master shipwright; there were several memorials from different officers, and those stood over till I made a general submission, and they were all enclosed; but there was no minute on each memorial from me; it was enclosed in the general submission, a memorandum for the Board's information; that occurred last week only.

1492. Lord *Hotham.*] The vacancy on the death of Mr. Laing?—Yes.

[The Witness withdrew.

Henry Frederick Amedroz, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1493. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee as to the case of Ridgeway; what was the date of appointment?—The 5th of April 1852.

1494. What appointment was it?—He was appointed acting first class leading-man in metal-mills, at Chatham, on the 5th April 1852, being advanced from the second class, he was appointed acting.

1495. Have you the appointment here?—No; I did not find it in the record office at the Admiralty.

1496. Do you recollect seeing the appointment?—No, I cannot say that I recollect seeing it; but I have taken this which I have stated from the entry-book in my department, of such appointments, and, therefore, I know that this appointment took place in this manner from the entry of it.

1497. Will you read it again?—"Joseph Ridgeway appointed acting first-class leading man in metal-mills at Chatham, on 5th of April 1852, having been then advanced from the second class."

1498. That is all you know now respecting that appointment?—Yes, that is all I know.

1499. Does that appointment appear to have been probationary?—Yes, from the circumstance of its being acting, which would imply that it was a conditional appointment.

1500. Whenever "acting" is put, it means probationary?—It does in those appointments, always.

1501. Did you make that note?—I took it, yesterday, from the entry-book.

1502. When was that note made in the entry-book?—The same day.

1503. That the appointment took place?—Yes, or, at the latest, next morning; but it would be made just before despatching it after signature.

1504. Will any paper show the Committee the recommendations respecting Ridgeway's appointment, or is that paper also lost?—If there were any, it would be upon the paper upon which the appointment was made, which I cannot find; it is missing; the natural course for it, from my department, would be to send it to the Surveyor of the Navy to note; that would be the first step.

1505. Can it be traced when it was sent to the Surveyor's department?—No, I cannot trace it, only that it was the practice to do so on all occasions of such appointments; there is no entry of the date, it being a matter of ordinary official routine.

1506. Any recommendations regarding Ridgeway, or any observations, would be in those papers that are now mislaid or lost?—They would probably be.

1507. That would be the natural place to look for them?—It would be, certainly.

1508. Mr. *Beckett.*] Would they have been returned to you by the Surveyor?—No; the natural course would be to return them from the Surveyor's office to the Record office at the Admiralty.

1509. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] Have you inquired for them at the Record office?—I looked myself in the Record office yesterday, and there is no trace of it at all.

1510. Sir *Benjamin Hall.*] On an appointment or promotion of this kind taking place, is it usual to send a notice of such appointment or promotion to the Captain-superintendent of the dockyard?—That is the execution of the appointment, acquainting him of it.

1511. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] Does that notice of appointment, when on probation, specify any given time during which that probation is to last?—It does, in some instances; it does not appear to have been so in this case.

1512. Is it usual to specify the particular length of time for the probation?—I can scarcely say; but I think there must be instances both ways, where no time has been mentioned, but sometimes where the time has been mentioned.

[The Witness withdrew.

John Barrow, Esq., called in, and Examined.

1513. *Chairman.*] THE Committee have before them a letter from Captain Richards the Superintendent of the Chatham Dockyard of the 5th of April; will you

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you look at that letter, and say when it first came to the Record department [*handing a letter to the Witness*]?—On the 29th of January of this year.

1514. You are accustomed to receive and to place in the Record department memorials sent from the different dockyards, with the observations of the Superintendent?—Yes.

1515. Can you state what is the usual course with regard to putting aside in the Record department those documents?—When I receive a document, such as your Lordship describes, I usually mark it for the digest, with a number in the corner; I also enter the name of any person mentioned in the letter.

1516. First, you mark it for the digest; show me that; what does it show?—41 is the head for dockyards, and 18 is the subdivision of that head, and signifies promotions and appointments of officers.

1517. Neither of these two marks refer to the date of its arrival?—Not at all.

1518. But in the digest there would be the date of the letter?—The letter would be quoted, "Chatham Dockyard, 5th of April 1852," and the name of the man would be also marked, and put into the index under his name.

1519. This memorandum you put upon it when it first comes to your department?—Yes.

1520. But would it be naturally brought to your department from Somerset House, or would it according to its direction go back to the Secretary of the Admiralty; it is a letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty?—It would, I imagine, in the first instance come up from Chatham to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

1521. As I understand, on the 5th of April, it would have gone from the Superintendent of the Dockyard to the Surveyor of the Navy?—I am not prepared to say that; I think it would go to the Secretary of the Admiralty, and be by him forwarded to the Surveyor; but it is a question of official routine, not in my department.

1522. Then any of the Lords of the Admiraly might call for it to see it?—Yes.

1523. Then the time when it would come to your office, would depend upon its retention by any of those persons who had a right to look at it?—Yes, entirely.

1524. Is there any regular period within which a document of that kind must necessarily be brought to the Record office after it is written?—I think letters sometimes do not arrive at all in the Record office; I do not say many, but some do not.

1525. If they do not arrive at all, how can you know anything about them?—I am not unfrequently asked about letters of which I know nothing.

1526. When you say that some do not, but you do not know that it is many, you are aware that some do not; but you cannot be aware, as you know nothing about them, how many?—No; but I have a distinct recollection of this letter, on this account: Captain Hamilton sent for me, and said that it would be desirable to get up all the papers I could find respecting the case of Mr. Cotsell and Mr. Wells. I went immediately to my books, and produced all I could find; and he said that those were not all; that there were other papers. I went back again, and having carefully looked for them, I could find no others. I then recollect writing to the Surveyor's department, I think to Mr. Walter Eden or to Mr. Edie, and I begged that they would let me have any letters that they might have received, or which might be in their department, respecting those two officers. This paper was then sent to me for the first time, dated the 5th of April; it came to me on the 29th of January 1853. I took it to Captain Hamilton, who placed this memorandum on it on the 29th of January 1853; from that moment it became a record in my custody.

1527. You obtained it from Somerset House?—Yes.

1528. Upon making inquiry for it?—Not for that particular letter, but generally for any letters respecting Wells and Cotsell.

[The Witness withdrew.

John Henry Briggs, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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1529. *Chairman.*] WHAT appointment do you hold at the Admiralty?—Reader to the Board of Admiralty.

1530. How many years have you been at the Admiralty?—Twenty-seven years.

1531. When you state that you are reader to the Board, will you state what the nature of your duties is as reader?—My duties are to go early in the morning, about

about a quarter past eight, and with the Secretaries to open all the despatches; they are either opened by the Secretaries in person, or they are opened by me in the presence of the Secretaries; my seat is in the Board-room, and the Board-room communicates with the Secretaries-room, and the door there is generally put back, so that we may be in personal communication; so soon as the papers arrive I open them, mark them off, arrange and distribute them according to the programme of business which is agreed upon after the first meeting of a Board of Admiralty; for so soon as a Board is formed, the first thing that is done is to agree as to the distribution of the business amongst the several Lords, each Lord superintending a particular branch of the business of the Admiralty. *J. H. Briggs*, Esq. 3 May 1853.

1532. That is when a new Board comes in?—Yes, and that is my guide for the distribution of the papers; having sorted them, I show them to the Secretary, and say, "Do you approve of my sending such and such letters to Admiral Hyde Parker; such and such to Admiral Berkeley, to Captain Dundas, and to Captain Milne." I am mentioning the Lords of the Admiralty who are now in office; having done that, a more careful selection of papers is made, and the most important are placed in the hands of the Secretary, which I ask him to be good enough to lay them before the First Lord, in order that he may be perfectly cognizant of their contents previous to their being brought before the Board of Admiralty. The papers which it is proposed to bring before the Board, are then looked over by the Secretary; I then get out all former correspondence, and when I have time I read it over carefully, that I may be able to answer any questions that may be asked, so that their Lordships may not put any question and an immediate answer not be given; the reading takes place at half-past eleven; at these readings all the letters are read out by me aloud.

1533. To the Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes, and to the Secretaries; they are likewise present. I hear the private opinion of each individual member of the Board upon the questions that are submitted for their consideration; those questions are sometimes of grave importance.

1534. You are present during the whole of the sittings of the Board?—Yes, I am; and, as far as I am able, collect the opinions of the Board (when required), to assist the Secretaries in making the minutes.

1535. You having been so long at the Admiralty, look over the letters to see that the Secretary does everything according to the forms of the Admiralty?—Yes; that the views of the Board are literally carried out; that the Secretary catches the right wording, and carries out what is intended. My duty is to assist the Secretary; when the minute has received the sanction of the Board, I stamp it, and that constitutes it what is designated a Board minute, a document to which we attach great weight, as having been read to and approved by a full Board. The names of all the Lords who are present are entered in a book; every decision that takes place is entered in that Board Minute Board, and that is each day laid upon the table of the Board-room, that the members may see that everything that was ordered the preceding day has been carried out in the manner that was wished; and each week this book is laid before the First Lord of the Admiralty, who puts his initials again to certify that it is correct.

1536. Is it not the case, that two Lords of the Admiralty and the Secretary make a Board?—Yes.

1537. May not the First Lord send for another Lord of the Admiralty, and the Secretary into his private room, and so constitute a Board?—Certainly.

1538. Is not that frequently done at the Admiralty?—I cannot say frequently.

1539. Do you know how often it is done?—Certainly not; that would be called a secret.

1540. You would not know how often that was done?—No, I think not.

1541. Of those circumstances you would know nothing?—I do not say that; for this reason, that the communication probably would be of an important nature; it would refer, possibly, to the distribution of the fleet. A communication, I will assume, comes from the Foreign Office, signifying the Queen's commands that such a thing should be done; that may come late in the afternoon, and the First Lord would send for the First Sea Lord and the Secretary, and hold a Board, and decide how those orders are to be carried out.

1542. Of that, what does the reader of the Board know?—The Secretary would, most likely, communicate with me as to what had passed, because, as reader, I keep a journal of the distribution and composition of the fleet, and it

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is desirable that I, as well as the head of the secret branch (those are the only two), should be cognizant of those facts, otherwise we should be sending officers or despatches to wrong places.

1543. You assume that this Board, held in the private room of the First Lord, is a Board for the distribution of the fleet?—I assume that it would be necessarily a Board for some important purpose.

1544. In the case of the distribution of the fleet, it would naturally be communicated to yourself?—I think I should know everything of that sort; I may say that I should.

1545. Supposing a Board of that kind is held, and a minute made by the Secretary in the private room of the First Lord, that has, as I understand it, all the power of a full Board?—Two members of the Board are all that are required to make a Board that is valid.

1546. No matter where they meet?—Yes,

1547. And having so met, would there be a stamp upon the minute that they pass?—No, for that paper would instantly be put under a sealed cover, for the head of the secret branch.

1548. In that case, a minute might be made, having the full power of a minute of the Board, but not having that stamp upon it?—Yes; but there would be a secret note that would explain the reason why. May I take the liberty of explaining the difficult position in which I feel myself placed with reference to a possible question that might be put. Having explained the nature of my duties, I think it right to state, that everything that takes place at the Board is regarded as secret, and is not to be divulged.

1549. You were at the Board in the year 1849, were you not?—Yes.

1550. Do you remember the circular of 1849 being brought to the Board, or was it brought to the Board?—May I ask whether the circular to which your Lordship refers, is the one which directs that letters which had heretofore passed through the Secretary, should be sent to the Surveyor of the Navy in the first instance.

1551. Yes; do you remember any circumstance connected with the circular being brought under the consideration of the Board?—I am not able to state whether it was a Board minute or not, without a reference to the Board Minute-book; but I think the circumstances that led to that minute being made, were these: the Secretaries had a very great deal to do, and, subsequent to the arrangement which was made in 1847, by which the whole of the dockyard establishments, and everything connected with the patronage of the dockyards, were placed upon a totally different footing, so as to prevent, as far as possible, any promotions going on from political or other motives, things were regarded in a different light, and it was considered that it would be for the convenience of the Admiralty, and certainly for the convenience of the Secretary, if those papers were sent direct to the Surveyor of the Navy, to prepare for the Secretary; the change was simply what I state, and I was glad of it; early in the morning, as your Lordship may understand, there is a great pressure of business; everything has to be got ready for the Board, and the time of the Secretary is very valuable.

1552. Before 1849, were those recommendations from the superintendents sent from the Board to the Surveyor?—No.

1553. Did you open them with the other letters?—They were opened by me with the other letters, and generally sent to the private clerk of the Secretary.

1554. The practice before 1849 was, that when you opened those letters, if any came from the superintendents of the dockyards, you sent them to the private clerk of the Secretary?—Yes.

1555. After that, you did not know what course they took?—I had nothing to do with them then; they were settled by the Secretary and the Surveyor.

1556. In fact, you cannot give any information to the Committee upon the mode in which those recommendations were dealt with between 1847 and 1849?—No, I had nothing to do with it; it is not in my department.

1557. But did you not say that you were glad of the circular of 1849, because it diminished to a great extent the labour you had to go through every morning? Not exactly a great extent; a certain degree. The papers were sent direct to the Surveyor of the Navy, which otherwise I had to open and send to the private clerk

clerk of the Secretary, to prevent the Secretary himself attending to that sort of business which interfered with what might be considered far more important, viz., the letters for the Board; everything is against time.

1558. In April 1852, the circular of 1849 having been cancelled, did you open those letters as you had done previously to September 1849?—In fine, reverting to the old system, they were opened by me, and sent to the private clerk of the then Secretary.

1559. Then you had put upon you that additional labour which you had previously rejoiced at being relieved from?—Exactly.

1560. After April 1852 you knew no more of what became of that correspondence than you did previously to September 1849?—Precisely the same; things were put exactly upon the old footing.

1561. Had Mr. Stafford consulted you before he put upon you this additional labour of opening those letters?—I had been consulted.

1562. Can you state what opinion you gave upon the subject?—My opinion was, that the system which he found in the office had much better be continued; unquestionably so, and that no change was desirable.

1563. Are the Committee to understand that your opinion was, that it would have been better not to have cancelled the circular of September 1849?—Such is my decided opinion, and that is the opinion I expressed at the time.

1564. In expressing that opinion, did you refer, in illustration of your views, to any inconveniences, or any political bias that might either be suspected, or that might take place under the change?—No; I rather looked at it with reference to the preparation of the letters for the Board. As the Secretary had not been in office before, I was looking at it with reference to the immense mass of papers to be mastered by him before their Lordships meet.

1565. You thought it would be occupying the time of the Secretary, which ought to be given up to more important matters?—Yes, and I thought I should not get so much of his time.

1566. If you did not get sufficient of his time, would that throw your business in arrear?—No; I should manage to get through it somehow or other.

1567. You remember the circular of the 26th of April that was passed at a full Board; were you present at that time?—I was, certainly.

1568. Did you then hear anything of the Surveyor of the Navy resigning, or speaking of resigning?—I cannot say that I did at that time; it was later that I heard a rumour of it.

1569. When did you first hear of it?—I heard of it as a matter that was rumoured about the office, to which really I paid very little attention. I was not aware of anything that had occurred that should lead the Surveyor of the Navy to resign; I thought him far too sensible a gentleman to do anything of the sort; added to which, the subject of resigning is spoken of very loosely by naval officers; they say, "I will resign; I will resign;" but that does not mean more than that something has occurred to put them a little out of humour.

1570. You have so frequently heard naval officers talk of resigning, that you paid little attention to it?—I pay very little attention to rumours; I do not think it is desirable to hear more than I am compelled to hear.

1571. Upon any occasion have you ever been desired to leave the Board-room when any matter was going to be discussed?—That has occurred; but I cannot say for several years that I remember it.

1572. You do not think that such an occurrence has taken place for many years?—No, I cannot say that it has; there is one thing I may state, that after the reading is over, I sometimes think it is but proper for me to withdraw, that their Lordships may have an opportunity of discussing matters, during which it is not perhaps, I think, good taste always to intrude my presence; I make it a point to do that, till I know that the Board has broken up.

1573. Sir *Benjamin Hall.*] You stated that you were present when the circular of the 26th of April was agreed to, and the proper Board-room stamp was put upon it?—That would be proved by the books; there are a great many Board minutes upon matters of this sort, and I should rather wish to refer to the book if the Committee wish it.

1574. Was it your duty to put the stamp upon it, or who did it?—I generally; sometimes the Secretary stamps the letters.

1575. You do not recollect any discussion upon that 26th of April respecting

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the works to which it refers, namely, to the misconstruction of the former circular?—No, I do not recollect.

1576. *Chairman.*] On the 29th of November last, do you remember anything respecting the resignation of the Surveyor being brought under notice?—Yes, I do, perfectly well; may I ask whether the 29th of November was the day that the Surveyor of the Navy had a communication with the First Lord of the Admiralty and Admiral Hyde Parker—[*A paper was handed to the Witness*]; yes, that must be the day.

1577. Did anything occur at the Board on that day?—What I should allude to occurred previously to the Board taking place.

1578. But in the Board-room?—No, in the Secretary's room; I think it must have been about 11 o'clock in the morning of that day I went into the Secretary's room with some papers, which I wished him to look at, and to bring before the Board.

1579. You went into the Secretary's room on Monday, the 29th of November, to give him some papers?—Yes, to ask him to look at some papers that it was necessary to bring before the Board on that day.

1580. Was any one else in the room?—Yes, the Surveyor of the Navy was present, and upon entering the room, I was very much pained and concerned to see the Surveyor of the Navy labouring apparently under much agitation of mind, as if something very unpleasant had occurred; he was standing at the table; he folded up some papers, and I was about to retire, thinking that something was taking place, and that my presence would be an intrusion, when I heard him say these words: "Very well, sir; then I will go to Somerset House, and return by-and-bye." And then he left the room.

1581. Is that all that you heard him say?—Seeing that he was agitated, I said to Mr. Stafford, "I hope the Surveyor has not resigned;" and he said, "No, is resigned." I said, "What do you mean?" And then he said that the Surveyor of the Navy had been to the Duke of Northumberland, and that the Duke of Northumberland had informed him that he had never seen his letter of resignation; and that if he had seen the letter of resignation, he should immediately have taken it to Lord Derby; that he had been to Admiral Hyde Parker, and that Admiral Hyde Parker told him he had not thought fit to bring his letter before the Board, but had destroyed it; Mr. Stafford then made use of these words; he said, "In fine, cuffed by the Duke, snubbed by Admiral Hyde Parker, with his letter of resignation in the fire, the Surveyor of the Navy not only comes to me, and recites this in his own proper person, but asks me what he had better do." My remarks were as follows: "Mr. Stafford, I am indeed surprised; let me beg and entreat of you not to press too heavily upon the Surveyor of the Navy; he is a most amiable gentleman; he is a most able and talented officer, and I don't think him to blame, and I do therefore hope you will put a stop to what is going on as quickly as possible, as my firm belief is that no possible good can accrue from what I have heard." Mr. Stafford then put his hand upon my shoulder, and said, "My dear Briggs, you have known me long enough to know that I am not vindictive."

1582. How long had you known Mr. Stafford?—About nine months, and during that time held communication with him every day when at the Admiralty. I never knew him before he came into office; I certainly felt very much distressed upon the subject, because I was impressed with the idea, from what I knew of the Surveyor of the Navy, that when he got to Somerset House there would be a real *bonâ fide* resignation, if matters were as they were represented to me.

1583. You did not hear the Surveyor of the Navy say anything, as I understand you, except that he would go to Somerset House?—That is all I heard.

1584. Then the report of what the Surveyor of the Navy said, you had from Mr. Stafford?—Certainly, from Mr. Stafford.

1585. The report which you have been telling the Committee, of the conversation between Mr. Stafford and the Surveyor of the Navy, you had only from Mr. Stafford?—From Mr. Stafford himself, upon making the remark, "I do hope the Surveyor has not resigned."

1586. That conversation involved the Surveyor of the Navy's conversation with the First Lord?—It referred to that, as also to that with Admiral Hyde Parker.

1587. And with Mr. Stafford?—Yes.

1588. Sir *Benjamin Hall.*] When Mr. Stafford said that the Surveyor of the Navy

Navy had not resigned, but that he "is resigned," and described the manner in which he had been treated by the Duke of Northumberland and Admiral Hyde Parker, Sir Baldwin Walker had left the room?—Yes.

1589. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] There was nobody in the room when you went in, except Mr. Stafford and Sir Baldwin Walker?—Nobody else; seeing, as I stated, the Surveyor agitated, I thought it would be good taste to withdraw.

1590. *Chairman.*] You expressed to Mr. Stafford your regret that the Surveyor of the Navy should resign?—Yes, I said I did not think him to blame.

1591. When you said that you did not think him to blame in resigning, and having told the Committee before, that you thought it very foolish for any man to resign, what circumstances were there which, in your opinion, rendered it, on the part of the Surveyor of the Navy, necessary for him to resign?—That which I had heard in the morning as to what had happened with the Duke, and with Admiral Hyde Parker, impressed me with the belief that something had occurred which was of an unpleasant nature, as communicated to me by Mr. Stafford; but with regard to the Surveyor of the Navy, I did not think him to blame from anything that had come to my knowledge; I heard some stories about some papers passing one way or the other; but I did not know any reason why that should be a cause for resignation.

1592. Lord *Hotham.*] It was in consequence of what you had previously heard?—Yes.

1593. *Chairman.*] Do you mean that you did not think him to blame for proposing to tender his resignation, or that you did not think him to blame for his conduct in the office?—I did not think him to blame for his conduct in the office; I did not know what had occurred which might render resignation necessary; my opinion was, that I did not think the Surveyor to blame; I entertained the highest possible opinion of him, as nothing had come to my knowledge that rendered it at all necessary for him to resign, and which I hope will be considered in keeping with what I said before when I heard those idle rumours; viz., that "He is too sensible a man to do so."

1594. You consider that his being cuffed by the First Lord and snubbed by the First Naval Lord was sufficient reason to induce a sensible man to resign?—Yes, on the instant; or that when the Surveyor went to Somerset House, and had time to recover from his excitement, he would sit down and send in his resignation; I was also very much afraid, as the Duke is represented to have cuffed him, that his Grace might have gone to Lord Derby, and put his threat into practice, and it appeared to me very important that everything should be put straight at once.

1595. You thought, for the credit of the department, and for the good of the public service, it was better that matters should be put straight?—Decidedly I did, and that upon the moment.

1596. Did you, as you expressed your opinion upon this point, offer to Mr. Stafford any suggestion as to how matters might be put straight?—No, there it dropped; I considered that I had done my duty; it was for Mr. Stafford to take such steps as he thought fit; what steps he took, I do not know; all I know is, that I was informed that there was to be no resignation, and that a letter had been written which would accomplish all that could be desired.

1597. Before this 29th of November, had anything transpired; had you been aware of what had taken place in the House of Commons respecting the resignation?—May I ask what the dates are?

1598. On the 23d of November questions were put in the House of Commons; therefore, before the 29th of November, you might have possibly been aware of it?—Certainly; the question was asked, where are the public records; but it appears that a search was made, and no letters upon the subject were forthcoming.

1599. Therefore you knew then that there had been some questions of the kind asked in the House of Commons, which seemed to indicate that the tender of the resignation had been suggested long before?—Certainly, and that seemed a confirmation of the rumour to which I have referred.

1600. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] As to the 29th of November, when you went into the room, you say that you found the Surveyor of the Navy in a state of great excitement?—The Surveyor of the Navy was standing at the table looking agitated, and he folded up the papers, and almost immediately went out of the room; I thought it proper to offer to retire.

1601. Mr. Stafford related to you the substance of the conversation which had

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had taken place between him and the Surveyor, did he not?—No; I did not understand it as the conversation; he only stated the substance of what had occurred with the Duke of Northumberland and Admiral Hyde Parker.

1602. Did he give you to undestand that that was the cause of the Surveyor's excitement?—That was the natural inference that I drew from it.

1603. Did he allude at all to having made any proposition to the Surveyor, with the view of settling the differences between them?—Nothing passed but what I have repeated.

1604. Mr. Stafford did not say anything to you about having made any proposition as to not sending in copies of the letters?—Nothing passed.

1605. You did not hear Captain Milne's name mentioned?—No; nor have I heard his name mentioned in any way. I did not know anything that passed.

[The Witness withdrew.

Thomas George Grant, Esq., Examined.

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1606. *Chairman.*] YOU were private secretary to Mr. Stafford?—I was.

1607. You stated that you had previously been private secretary to different Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes.

1608. You have not been private secretary to any other Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes; for a short time to Mr. Corry, when he was at the Admiralty.

1609. Towards the end of March 1852, did Mr. Stafford send you on any business to Somerset House?—I do not recollect that he did.

1610. Do you remember, towards the end of March, having at any time a conversation with Sir Baldwin Walker?—I had.

1611. At Somerset House?—Yes.

1612. Have you heard the evidence that has been given in this room?—Yes, I have.

1613. It was stated to this Committee that you went to Sir Baldwin Walker with a request or suggestion that Sir Baldwin Walker would not submit names for promotion to the Admiralty?—That has been stated, but I do not believe that the object of my visit was to that effect. I can state to the Committee what took place. My impression is, that I did go to Somerset House, but I think that my visit was a visit to my father, who has an office there, and on leaving him, I went to Sir Baldwin Walker; the object of my visit being, as far as I can recollect, to ascertain whether certain vacancies existed in the dockyards, the Secretary of the Admiralty having received applications for certain vacancies which were stated to exist, but the reports of which vacancies had not reached him. My impression is, that I went to the Surveyor, and asked him whether certain vacancies existed in one of the dockyards; and that I stated that some inconvenience was felt in consequence of the reports of the vacancies not coming direct to the Secretary, but coming in the first instance through the Surveyor. My impression is, that the Surveyor then said, that he trusted the system then in force was not about to be altered, as he thought it worked very well, and he hoped that no system of jobbing was about to be recurred to; and I believe I said, that it was not the intention in any way to revert to any such system. My impression is, that I said great inconvenience was felt in consequence of the Secretary of the Admiralty not being aware direct from the dockyards what vacancies existed. I made no proposition such as that represented.

1614. You heard the Surveyor of the Navy express a hope that no system of jobbing would be commenced?—Yes.

1615. What had passed before to make him think that a system of jobbing was about to be commenced?—Nothing had passed, so far as I remember; I believe it was his remark, as far as I can recollect.

1616. You went, as you state, to ask Sir Baldwin Walker respecting some vacancies in one of the dockyards?—I believe I did.

1617. From the belief entertained by Mr. Stafford that there were vacancies which had not been reported?—He had received applications for vacancies which were stated to exist, but no reports of them had reached Mr. Stafford; and the object of my visit to the Surveyor was to ascertain whether he had received reports of those vacancies.

1618. Do you remember whether he said that he had received reports of those vacancies?—That I cannot recollect; I cannot remember any particular case.

1619. You

1619. You remember that upon which you did not go to Sir Baldwin Walker, namely, respecting the jobbing, but you do not remember his answer to what you did go to inquire about?—I cannot recollect the direct object of my visit.

1620. I thought you said that the object of your visit was respecting certain vacancies?—It was more accidental, so far as I recollect my seeing him at all; I did not go to Somerset House to see him; but being there, I thought I would inquire.

1621. Was it of your own notion that you thought you would make those inquiries, or were you directed by Mr. Stafford to inquire?—I was not directed by him to inquire; I know that he had felt inconvenience on the subject, and I thought it a good opportunity to clear the matter up.

1622. How do you know that he had felt inconvenienced upon this subject?—Because he was receiving letters daily about certain vacancies, of which he had received no official report.

1623. Then, finding that Mr. Stafford was put to inconvenience respecting those vacancies, you went to Sir Baldwin Walker to ascertain respecting the vacancies; but you do not remember the reply that Sir Baldwin Walker made upon the subject?—I cannot recollect; my impression is, that the conversation was put an end to by his remark regarding the jobbing.

1624. Did you afterwards ascertain whether there were any vacancies that ought to have been reported, and that were not reported?—I cannot recollect any particular circumstance with respect to that case. I believe a short time afterwards, some vacancies were reported by the Surveyor to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

1625. You believe generally that some vacancies were, but you cannot recollect any cases?—I cannot.

1626. When were they reported?—They ought to be reported about the beginning of each month.

1627. Can you recollect when they were?—No, I cannot.

1628. Now, do you remember on the 22d of November, inquiring for any correspondence that had taken place with the Surveyor of the Navy?—About that time I did.

1629. You inquired?—I did.

1630. Did you inquire, or have an interview with the Surveyor?—The inquiry was not at all made with the Surveyor; it was made with the Record Office of the Admiralty.

1631. Was the inquiry made by you?—I think it was; I think I went to Mr. Barrow, who keeps the records of the Admiralty, to inquire whether there was any trace of a resignation of that kind existing.

1632. What did you hear from Mr. Barrow?—My impression is, I cannot say exactly that I heard it from Mr. Barrow, that inquiry was made, and no such papers were to be found in the office.

1633. Did you go to Somerset House to inquire for the papers?—I believe not.

1634. Have you not been frequently before sent to Somerset House for papers?—No, I have not.

1635. Do you remember other occasions on which papers inquired for were missing?—It is not of uncommon occurrence.

1636. And when such occurrences take place, is it usual to inquire at Somerset House, as well as the Admiralty at Whitehall?—It is.

1637. You did not take any share in the inquiry at Somerset House on that occasion?—I did not.

1638. Now, on Monday the 29th, when Sir Baldwin Walker came to the Admiralty, did you see him on that occasion?—I saw Sir Baldwin Walker on the 29th of November at the Admiralty.

1639. You saw him on that day?—I did.

1640. Where?—In Mr. Stafford's room.

1641. Was Mr. Stafford present?—He was.

1642. Were you there during any conversation between Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Stafford?—I was in Mr. Stafford's room with him on the 29th of November; about 11 in the morning, or shortly afterwards, Sir Baldwin Walker entered the room with some papers in his hand, what appeared to me the draft of a letter, which was handed to Mr. Stafford. Mr. Stafford read it. I am not able to say what that letter contained; but it appeared to be the draft of a letter. And Mr. Stafford

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Stafford said to the Surveyor of the Navy, "Will you sit down at my table, and write?" The Surveyor said, "No, I will not write it here; I will take it to Somerset House, and have it written in the regular course." At that point of the conversation I left the room.

1643. Then you have no further accurate information as to what was the purport of the letter to be written?—I have not; I had a conversation with Mr. Stafford after the Surveyor of the Navy had left the room.

1644. You had not heard distinctly from the Surveyor of the Navy what was the purport of the letter?—I had not.

1645. Lord *Hotham.*] Did Mr. Briggs come there while you were in the room?—No, he did not.

1646. *Chairman.*] When did you first hear talk of the resignation of Sir Baldwin Walker?—I never heard of his having actually resigned. I had heard rumours of his going to resign; it was not at all an uncommon occurrence.

1647. Do you mean it had not been an uncommon occurrence during several years past, or that it was not an uncommon occurrence during the year 1852?—I mean during the year 1852.

1648. During the year 1852 there were several rumours that Sir Baldwin Walker intended to resign?—There were.

1649. Can you state when you first heard those rumours?—I think the first occasion was about the 19th of April, when the circular of that date was issued. It was about that date I heard the first rumour. I heard he was going to resign on that account.

1650. Did you see that circular of the 19th of April?—I did.

1651. The original paper?—I should say so, certainly.

1652. Was that original paper initialed by any Lord of the Admiralty?—I am not aware that it was.

1653. When did you last see that paper?—That I am unable to say; it would not naturally come to me after, probably, the 19th of April.

1654. Why would it naturally come into your hands on the 19th of April?—Because it was my habit to sit in the same room with Mr. Stafford, and most of the papers that passed through his hands, passed through mine.

1655. You did not look at this paper, so as to be able to state whether or not it had the initials of a Lord of the Admiralty?—It may have received the initials of a Lord of the Admiralty after it left me; I could not say whether it did or not.

1656. Have you never seen it since that time?—I cannot remember.

1657. You said you heard, shortly after the 19th of April, a rumour that Sir Baldwin Walker would resign?—I did.

1658. When again did you hear of such a rumour; you said you heard it several times?—I heard a rumour, I cannot say when; it was shortly afterwards, a month or two after that time. The rumour was, that he would resign his office, unless his office was removed from Somerset House to Whitehall, as he found it very inconvenient running backwards and forwards, from one to the other; and I heard, on that occasion, the rumour of his resigning.

1659. From whom did you hear that rumour?—There were rumours in the office.

1660. Was it from the clerks of the Admiralty?—It was.

1661. Did you see the circular of the 26th of April?—I did.

1662. Did that come to you after it had passed the Board?—I cannot exactly and distinctly state that.

1663. You do not remember?—No, I cannot remember.

1664. Did the papers relating to appointments and promotions pass through your hands?—Generally.

1665. Did those papers respecting Ridgeway come to your hands?—They probably did; I cannot remember.

1666. Those papers have been lost, or at least they cannot be found?—I do not know.

1667. Did you see the papers relating to the appointments at Devonport?—I do not recollect any particular paper respecting any particular appointments at Devonport.

1668. You do not remember the papers respecting the appointments at Devonport, with the observations of the superintendents upon them?—I had constantly papers of that description passing through my hands, and Mr. Stafford's. I do not know what particular papers you allude to.

1669. Those

1669. Those papers which have been referred to in this Committee, at question 41, where a number of persons' names were sent up, and where the superintendent recommended different persons being promoted, from those who were eventually promoted?—Those were at Woolwich.

1670. Do you remember those respecting the cases at Woolwich?—I do.

1671. Respecting those different names?—Yes.

1672. Now, when had you those papers in your hands, do you know?—The original paper from Woolwich, respecting those vacancies, probably passed through my hands, and then went, with certain names which were selected, to the Surveyor of the Navy. The Surveyor of the Navy returned them to the Secretary of the Admiralty, with the remarks attached to it, as stated in the question 46. A Minute was then made by Mr. Stafford selecting those names which he thought fit, and then the paper passed through my hands, and went to the department where the appointments were carried out. The natural course would be, for the appointments to be carried out in that department, and then, as a matter of course, that paper would be put in an envelope, and sent to the Surveyor of the Navy for his information.

1673. Would the papers with the observation of the Surveyor of the Navy be sent back to him?—Decidedly, in the usual course.

1674. All those papers?—Yes.

1675. They would not be sent back by you, but by the department in which the appointments were made out?—Precisely; they would not return to me at all.

1676. They would go to the legal department, where the appointments are made out; and after the legal department had made out the appointments, they would send them to the Surveyor of the Navy?—In the usual course they would.

1677. Had you anything to do with appointments under any previous Board of Admiralty?—Not to the dockyards.

1678. The appointments in the dockyards coming more especially to the Secretary, you had not been acquainted with that previously?—No, I had not.

1679. You said you saw the circular of the 19th of April?—I believe I did.

1680. Do you know who drew up that circular, who wrote it?—I cannot say at all, I am sure.

1681. You did not write it yourself?—I cannot be positive of that at this distance of time.

1682. You may have written it?—I may.

1683. Sir *B. Hall.*] Did you receive any instructions to write that circular?—Of course; I should not without.

1684. From whom did you receive the instructions?—I did not say I did write it; if I did write it, it was from a draft given to me to copy.

1685. This being one of the most important circulars ever issued from the Admiralty, cannot you inform us whether you copied that circular, or whether you drew that circular by dictation or not?—I cannot; but it was not looked on at all as an important circular.

1686. Not at that time?—It was not.

1687. Do you know of your own knowledge whether that circular was ever submitted to the First Lord, or any Lord?—I cannot of my own knowledge state it.

1688. *Chairman.*] When you say that it was not looked upon as an important circular, do you mean that you did not look upon it as an important circular, or what did you mean?—My impression is, that the Secretary did not look on it as an important circular.

1689. You being private secretary to the Secretary of the Admiralty, thought he did not look on it as important?—Yes.

1690. And therefore you did not consider it important?—Yes.

1691. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Were you aware that the Surveyor of the Navy considered the abrogation of the order of 1849 a very important step?—No, I had no means of knowing that.

1692. You were not aware that he had ever remonstrated against such a change being made?—Yes, in 1852 he had remonstrated.

1693. *Chairman.*] You yourself had a conversation with the Surveyor of the Navy at the end of March, when he said that he hoped no alteration would be made in that circular?—Yes.

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1694. Therefore, although you heard the conversation from the Surveyor of the Navy, who said that he hoped there would be no alteration made in the circular, and no commencement of jobbing, yet when you saw the circular which did alter the system, you did not consider it important?—I did not consider it important.

[The Witness withdrew.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of the House; further Examined.

A. Stafford, Esq. M. P.

1695. *Chairman.*] YOU stated, the other day, that you had seen the submission of the Surveyor recommending Mr. Wells?—Yes.

1696. Is that the paper which has been lost since?—Yes.

1697. When did you see that paper?—On my return from the Mediterranean.

1698. When was your return from the Mediterranean?—The latter end of September.

1699. The letter was dated 10th September 1852?—The 9th of September; if it was sent from Somerset House on the 9th, the probability is, that it would be received at Whitehall on the 10th; it is dated in the Parliamentary Papers the 9th.

1700. Had that recommendation been signed by the initials of any Lord of the Admiralty?—My strong remembrance is that it was by "H. P.," which is the usual signature of Admiral Parker.

1701. Those initials would convey to you the information that Admiral Parker had approved of it?—Yes.

1702. Then what was the date of the appointment of Cotsell?—The 1st of October.

1703. On what day was it you saw this document appointing Wells?—I cannot say the exact day.

1704. Was it the end of September?—I should think it must have been the 25th or 26th of September that I saw it.

1705. Did you consult Admiral Parker before appointing Cotsell to Portsmouth?—I told Admiral Parker it was my great wish to appoint Cotsell to Portsmouth.

1706. Did you commence the conversation with Admiral Parker, or did Admiral Parker come to you, to remonstrate against the appointment of Cotsell?—Admiral Parker was never in my room the whole time I was in office.

1707. Did you go to Admiral Parker's room upon this subject?—No.

1708. Where did you meet Admiral Parker then?—After the Board had broke up, to the best of my remembrance, that was the time.

1709. In the Board-room after the Board had broken up?—Yes.

1710. Can you remember whether Admiral Parker remonstrated with you for proposing to appoint Cotsell, or whether you suggested to Admiral Parker that you wished to appoint Cotsell in lieu of Wells?—I cannot remember the exact term; but I think there was some other appointment which Admiral Parker proposed, and he said that he should have great pleasure in acquiescing in that, but there would be considerable difficulty about Cotsell, or some phrase like that; but the Admiral expressed a strong opinion that Wells ought to be appointed, or rather, I believe, that Cotsell should not be appointed.

1711. Admiral Parker stated to the Committee, at question 458, "I remonstrated with Mr. Stafford, before I left town, upon the proposition as to the appointment of Cotsell"?—Yes; it was not a long conversation, but it was a strong remonstrance.

1712. A strong remonstrance on the part of Admiral Parker against the appointment of Cotsell to Portsmouth?—Against the appointment of Cotsell to Portsmouth.

1713. And that was before the appointment was made?—Yes.

1714. Were you aware at the time that Admiral Parker had himself been the Superintendent of the Dockyard at Portsmouth?—Yes.

1715. Therefore he was a very competent person to give an opinion as to a high appointment at that place, was he not?—I do not mean to say he was an incompetent person, certainly not; his opinion would have great weight.

1716. But, according to the circular of 1847, the superintendents of dockyards' recommendations were to have great weight with the Admiralty?—So long as they were superintendents.

1717. And

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1717. And a person who had been the superintendent, and obtained that information, who became the First Naval Lord at the Admiralty, naturally would give an opinion that would have great weight on the appointments in that Yard?—Any opinion of Admiral Parker's would have great weight.

1718. Would it not have great weight when it had reference to a place with which he was specially acquainted?—Yes, I think it would.

1719. Now, having heard Admiral Parker's remonstrance against the appointment of Cotsell, did you speak to the First Lord on the subject?—As far as my memory serves me, I named it to him.

1720. You think you named it to the First Lord?—I think so.

1721. Can you remember whether or not the First Lord agreed with you, or whether he gave any opinion upon the subject?—To the best of my memory, he gave no opinion on the subject; but I cannot remember this accurately.

1722. Did you consult with any one else before appointing Cotsell?—I cannot remember; I am not sure that the First Lord was in town.

1723. According to the account given by Admiral Parker, it appears that Admiral Parker not only remonstrated with you upon the subject, but that he remonstrated with the head of the Board by letter; at Question 460, he was asked this, "Did you bring that remonstrance to the notice of any one else, besides Mr. Stafford," to which Admiral Parker replied, "Yes, I remonstrated with the head of the Board by letter." Now Admiral Parker having remonstrated with the head of the Board by letter, did you write to the First Lord on this subject?—I think that Admiral Parker wrote to the First Lord when he was absent on leave, and in one of his questions I think he said that.

1724. Have you no recollection of your bringing this question to the notice of the First Lord either by interview or by letter?—Not before it took place.

1725. You have no distinct recollection of it?—No; I know the First Lord came to town very soon afterwards, and Admiral Parker went away. I know the words are, "I am absent on leave," on some occasion. Here it is in Question 444, "I am absent on leave."

1726. Sir *H. Davie.*] The question referred to the end of September?—I think the Admiral left very early in October.

1727. *Chairman.*] Admiral Parker remonstrated before the appointment was made; what is the date of the appointment of Cotsell?—The 1st of October.

1728. Therefore his letter of the 8th of October, which you referred to, which was the letter to Sir Baldwin Walker on the subject, was not written until the 8th of October?—Yes.

1729. Did you then consult with any one else before making the appointment of Cotsell, having heard the strong remonstrance of Admiral Parker against it?—Yes, to the best of my remembrance, I consulted with the other members of the Board.

1730. You consulted some of the other Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes, I believe I did.

1731. Could you state any one of the Lords of the Admiralty from your recollection with whom you certainly consulted?—To the best of my recollection I consulted with Captain Duncombe and Sir Thomas Herbert; at all events I named it to them.

1732. Did you receive the approval of Captain Duncombe and Sir Thomas Herbert for the step you proposed to take?—Their names are to the warrant, page 4, of the Parliamentary Papers.

1733. Was Admiral Parker in town when the warrant was made; was he present?—Certainly not; he was not present. Warrants are sent up; they go from one Lord to be signed in his room, then they go to another to be signed in his room, or if the Lords be in the Secretary's room, or the Board-room, they may sign them together.

1734. Did you mention to Captain Duncombe, or to Sir Thomas Herbert, the strong remonstrance which Admiral Parker had made on this subject?—I believe they knew it was against his opinion. I do not know that I mentioned the particular conversation, but with the submission of the 9th of September, they would have known it, which was signed by his name.

1735. As we understand you promoted Cotsell as being the man most fit within the service for the place at Portsmouth?—As far as I could judge from all I had heard and seen of Cotsell in his work, I thought he was the best man.

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1736. The Committee understood you to say that you had an objection to going out of the dockyards for a man if you could find one fit for the place in the dockyard?—I considered, in order to leave Her Majesty's dockyards, you must establish two things very conclusively; first, that no person in those dockyards if at all efficient, or at all likely to be efficient; and, secondly, that the one you propose to introduce must be of extraordinary merit.

1737. Before you made up your mind on this general question, for it was a general question, taking men from the dockyard rather than going to a private yard, did you consult Commodore Eden at all?—Not on this particular point.

1738. Did you consult him on the general principle of selecting a man from a private yard, or of adhering to the men who were in the dockyard service?—I had a great number of conversations with Commodore Eden, and whenever I could see him I always asked him about dockyard matters. I remember a conversation soon after my taking office, with regard to Mr. Black at Woolwich.

1739. In that conversation respecting Mr. Black, did you hear Commodore Eden's opinion as to the success of that appointment?—Commodore Eden's opinion with reference to the success of that appointment was very favourable.

1740. Therefore Commodore Eden, who was superintendent of a dockyard, was in favour of a selection from private trade?—That did not follow as a general principle.

1741. In some cases he was in favour of that?—In this case, because he had appointed Mr. Black.

1742. And another person who was in favour of it was Admiral Parker. Who had you that had been superintendent of a dockyard who gave a contrary opinion?—I did not know that Commodore Eden had given an opinion with regard to Wells.

1743. This was a general question of selecting a man from the private trade?—I never understood Commodore Eden to treat it so; I never understood Commodore Eden to say that in every case the men of the dockyard should be passed over when they come to the top of their profession, and a person from the private trade introduced.

1744. Nor did I mean to ask that, or give that as the opinion of Commodore Eden. We have it in evidence that Commodore Eden was of opinion that a selection from the private trade had answered very well at Woolwich?—Is it in evidence that Commodore Eden had a conversation with me?

1745. No; but it is in evidence that such was the opinion of Commodore Eden. Had you endeavoured to ascertain from Commodore Eden his opinion on the general question?—My impression, from my conversation with Commodore Eden was, that while, on the one hand, we should not rigidly adhere to the dockyards where there was an inefficient person standing next, on the other hand, long service, and having risen by gradations of merit, should not be without great weight.

1746. When you found the appointment of Wells signed by Admiral Parker's initials, and when you wished to appoint Cotsell in lieu of him, did you, before appointing Cotsell, consult Commodore Eden at all on the subject?—No.

1747. You had also received a letter from Captain Richards at Chatham, recommending a selection from a private yard there?—Yes, in the case of Ridgeway.

1748. You had therefore two superintendents of dockyards; one had obtained and one had recommended selections from a private yard. You had also the recommendation and the appointment by Admiral Parker of a person from a private yard; did you obtain from any other superintendent of a dockyard an opinion on this subject?—The opinions of the superintendents of the dockyards, and the dock authorities generally, I had endeavoured to ascertain as well as I could during the whole time of my tenure of office.

1749. Had you written to any of them so as to get their opinion in writing?—No, I had not.

1750. Did you consider Wells incompetent, or did you enter at all into the question?—I had no such testimonials laid before me with respect to Wells that induced me to believe he had merits equal to Cotsell; but previously to the consideration of Wells' merits, I should have had also to consider Cotsell's demerits.

1751. As Wells was acting at the time at Portsmouth, did you make any inquiry as to Wells' competency?—I did not know that Wells was acting at Portsmouth.

1752. Was

1752. Was he not acting?—I did not know it at the time.

1753. I thought you said you had seen the recommendation of Wells initialed by Admiral Parker?—Yes.

1754. For the appointment?—Yes.

1755. Did you inquire whether or not such a recommendation having gone forward, initialed by the First Naval Lord, anything had been done upon it?—Yes: but the appointment had not gone forward.

1756. Did you consider that nothing had been done upon it?—Nothing whatever had been done upon the subject, I thought.

1757. You thought that Wells was not probably even acquainted with this?—Yes; if I had found that Wells had got the warrant, or the letter of appointment without the warrant, nothing on earth should have induced me to disturb it for one moment.

1758. Then you did not know that that letter had gone forward which has been laid before this Committee, namely, the letter of the 10th of September 1852, to the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth, appointing Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth dockyard?—I knew that that had gone forward.

1759. That having gone forward, did you not suppose anything had been done upon it?—It is not the business of the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth to take the least notice of such a letter as that; or to communicate with the man.

1760. You knew also that a similar, or a letter to the same effct, had gone to the Surveyor of the Navy?—Yes, and to the Accountant-general.

1761. Did you suppose still those letters having gone forward on the 10th of September, that nothing would have been done on them?—Nothing, in reference to Mr. Wells. I knew nothing was done in reference to Mr. Wells, because I knew the appointment had not gone forward, and I knew the warrant had not gone forward.

1762. Then the letter to the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth was not, in your opinion, an authorization to him to employ Wells for any time?—By no means.

1763. Then this letter may be written: "My Lords have been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard; he is to be entered on probation for six months, and to be paid at the rate of 200 *l.* a-year, with the understanding that if, at the expiration of that period, his conduct and abilities shall be found to be perfectly satisfactory, he will be confirmed as master smith, at the full salary of 250 *l.* per annum." Now, that letter, being written to the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth, did not appear to you to be likely to be followed by any result?—No; so far as I understood, Mr. Wells was at Liverpool. It was no part of the Admiral Superintendent's duties at Portsmouth to communicate with Mr. Wells at Liverpool.

1764. If Mr. Wells presented himself at Portsmouth, the Admiral Superintendent, having received that letter, would at once appoint him, and let him enter on the probation for which he was recommended?—By no means. He would commit a great irregularity if he did.

1765. If the Admiral Superintendent, having received that letter from the Lords of the Admiralty, signed by Captain Hamilton, directing him to appoint Mr. James Wells, saying they "had been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells," and directing the rate of pay he was to receive, had obeyed those directions, he would have been committing a great irregularity?—He would not have any means of knowing who Mr. Wells was; anybody might go into the yard and say, "I am Mr. Wells."

1766. Would he have to inquire whether the person presenting himself was or was not Mr. Wells?—He would want proof of his being Mr. Wells.

1767. Of his identity?—Yes.

1768. Having proof of his identity, would he appoint him to his work?—The proof of his identity would be, such a letter from the Admiralty, addressed to Mr. Wells, as was given subsequently by the present Board, when they appointed him.

1769. Then do you mean, that if the Admiral Superintendent did admit Mr. Wells without that letter, he committed a great irregularity?—He committed an irregularity, certainly. There is a particular form for these appointments, which the Committee need not have from me, but from the clerks whose official duty it is to make them; and as these appointments involve a question of finance, the Accountant-general also is informed of them.

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1770. Would you refer to the Dockyard Instructions, and show whether there is anything directing the Superintendent of a dockyard as to the mode in which he is to receive a person?—I do not know that there is any direction in the Dockyard Instructions; it was never altered. This has been so from time immemorial.

1771. The regulations having been such from time immemorial, the Admiral Superintendent committed an irregularity in admitting Mr. Wells?—Without a warrant.

1772. And therefore, he having committed that irregularity, you could not in any way be cognizant that Mr. Wells was at Portsmouth?—Not in any way.

1773. This having been done by Captain Hamilton, did you speak to Captain Hamilton on the subject?—Yes.

1774. Did Captain Hamilton give you any information on the subject?—Yes.

1775. Was Captain Hamilton in town then?—Captain Hamilton was in town. I wish to put in here this letter, which was read by Sir James Graham in the House, from Captain Hamilton: "New-street, Spring Gardens, April 15. My dear Sir James Graham,—From a communication I have to-day with Mr. Piers, it seems that in my letter to you on the 12th instant, I have confounded the submission of the Surveyor's recommending Wells, with another submission from the Surveyor as to an appointment of a draughtsman to his office, and I am reminded that I dealt with his letter precisely as I had supposed I had dealt with the submission recommending Wells; and, as regards the missing Minute, I am further reminded by Mr. Piers, that it was given by me into his charge, together with all the other papers in Wells's case, to be kept over until Mr. Stafford's return. I remain, dear Sir James Graham, your's, *W. A. B. Hamilton.*" The Committee will see in that letter, Captain Hamilton states that these papers were postponed till my return; and, having signed those three letters, one to the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth, one to the Surveyor of the Navy, and one to the Accountant-general, will show, what is obvious, that he signed them inadvertently.

1776. Do you consider that Captain Hamilton signed all those letters inadvertently?—Yes.

1777. And that was another irregularity?—Why, it was rather an irregularity.

1778. Did you not, however, speak to Captain Hamilton, who had signed those letters, before you made the appointment of Cotsell?—Yes; I ascertained that the appointment and warrant of Wells had not gone forward.

1779. Did you ascertain what had been done upon it?—In what way.

1780. Did you then ascertain that he had irregularly signed three letters?—I think I did.

1781. You think you did?—There are sometimes, perhaps, a couple of hundred letters brought up for the Secretary to sign; when one Secretary is out of town, or when there are not two Secretaries, it is extremely severe to make the signatures. The clerks are very anxious to have the signatures as early as possible, in order that they may take the copies, and then go away; and in those circumstances, with respect to apparently formal documents, the signatures on one or two occasions may inadvertently take place.

1782. As you had some conversation with Captain Hamilton, are you sure that Captain Hamilton did not inform you that Mr. Wells was not at Portsmouth?—No, not to the best of my remembrance; it would have made an impression upon me if he did.

1783. Did not Admiral Parker, when he made that remonstrance against sending Cotsell to Portsmouth, inform you that Wells was at Portsmouth?—No, I think not. He told me he had appointed him, and he remonstrated against Cotsell's appointment.

1784. But did he not state that Wells was actually there?—No, not to the best of my remembrance; when I appointed Cotsell on the 1st of October, my belief was, that the post was unoccupied. I made inquiries as to the warrant and the letter; if the Committee would look at page 5 of the Parliamentary Paper 271, they will there see, in the case of Mr. Richard Forbes, the usual routine of official correspondence which is required. First of all, there is an announcement to the Captain Superintendent of Sheerness Dockyard of the appointment of Mr. Richard Forbes; secondly, there is a letter to Mr. Richard Forbes, announcing his appointment; thirdly, there is the warrant to Mr. Richard Forbes, which he is directed to take up. The first of those formal letters was issued with regard to Mr. Wells,

Wells, as I state, inadvertently by Captain Hamilton; the last two he never received till the present Board appointed him.

1785. Is it your opinion, then, that the superintendent of the dockyard, admitting Mr. Wells without such a warrant as that which is given at page 5, No. 271, signed by two Lords of the Admiralty, committed an irregularity?—The Committee must form their own judgment as to that; here is the warrant to James Wells, in Parliamentary Paper, 343, p. 3.

By the Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c.

To Mr. James Wells,

WHEREAS we think fit to appoint you to be acting master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Portsmouth, you are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith and take upon yourself the duties of that situation, following such orders and directions as you shall receive from the superintendent of the said dockyard, or from any other your superior officer for the time being; for which this shall be your warrant.

Given under our hands the 27th day of January 1853.

(signed) *R. S. Dundas.*
Alexander Milne.

By command of their Lordships.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

If this document was not necessary, the present Board would not have given it; if it was necessary, the Admiral Superintendent ought to have required it.

1786. Now, that document which you have just read is word for word the same as the document signed by T. Abbott and A. Duncombe, appointing Mr. Cotsell?—Exactly.

1787. Then, according to the practice of the Admiralty, is it to be understood that the superintendent of a dockyard, admitting a man for probation, or in any way into the yard, without having such a warrant as that, does, in your opinion, commit an irregularity?—The Committee are quite as fully competent to form an opinion as the Secretary of the Admiralty on the conduct of the Admiral Superintendent; it is the duty of the Admiral Superintendent to see that the formal letters are issued.

1788. Are there no letters of instruction to Admiral Superintendents of dockyards?—Yes.

1788.* This Committee may not be conversant with the instructions to Admiral Superintendents of dockyards, but the Secretary of the Admiralty is expected to be so?—Yes.

1789. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to ask the Secretary of the Admiralty whether he considers it necessary for the superintendent of a dockyard to receive a warrant of that kind before admitting a man into his yard?—I have no hesitation in saying I never heard of a man being admitted without one, to the best of my belief; from perpetually signing these warrants, I believe that it is so.

1790. What did you consider was the effect of the document, signed by the initials of Admiral Parker, recommending Wells?—I said in the House of Commons that "their Lordships re-considered their decision;" that was the way in which I could officially speak of it in the House of Commons.

1791. When you saw the document, did you consider that it had no force, being initialed only by one Lord?—I considered that it was not in Admiral Parker's province; not in his department.

1792. You considered that Admiral Parker had stepped out of his department by so initialing it?—Yes.

1793. In whom, then, is the right to appoint the master smith vested?—I considered that, practically, it was in mine, or the First Lord's.

1794. Did you consider whether it was in yours or in the First Lord's?—I thought it was in mine.

1795. On further consideration, what do you think it to be now?—I believe it was in mine now.

1796. You believe it was in the Secretary's?—I think so; I believe that the Duke had, practically, given me almost all the dockyard appointments.

1797. Did you consider it yours as Secretary of the Admiralty, or yours by gift from the Duke, by giving it over to you?—I considered it mine, because the Duke had given me almost all the dockyard appointments.

 1798. Commonly

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1798. Commonly speaking, are you aware whether the appointment of the principal officers of the dockyard belong to the First Lord or the Secretary?—I think to the First Lord.

1799. Commonly speaking, they belong to the First Lord?—Yes.

1800. As this was a disputed case, or at least it was a case in which Admiral Parker differed from you on the subject, and where the real right to appoint was in the First Lord, did you not formally bring it under his consideration?—No; because I thought he had given it to me; I had no doubt then, in my own mind, that I had the appointment. I believe the First Lord was not in town at the time.

1801. This paper, which was initialed by Admiral Parker, is also missing?—I understand so. Admiral Berkeley stated so in the House of Commons, on the 19th.

1802. You wrote a letter to Wells on the 18th of October 1852?—Yes; which I will now put in.

1803. That was the first letter you wrote to Mr. Wells?—That was the first letter I wrote to Mr. Wells. It appears in the Parliamentary Paper as the first letter.

Sir, Admiralty, 18 October 1852.

I HAVE received your memorial without date; and I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, that they are not aware that you have received any appointment from them; and that their Lordships do not consider you justified in designating yourself "late master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Portsmouth;" they therefore return you your memorial. If, however, from any communication with any of the officers of the several departments, you haye been led to expect such an appointment, their Lordships are prepared to give their consideration to any memorial from you on that subject; but my Lords cannot recognize you as late master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, as no warrant has been given to you by their Lordships for such appointment. I am also to desire, that in any future communication to their Lordships you will state your address.

1804. Did you receive any further communication from Mr. Wells?—If I had received any further communication from Mr. Wells, it would be in these Papers, and there is none. The next communication is the 6th of January 1853, when I had left the office.

1805. You did not receive any further communication from Mr. Wells after that letter of the 18th of October?—No.

1806. Who recommended Mr. Cotsell to you for the appointment?—There was his own petition.

1807. Was that the first paper that brought his name to your notice as connected with the appointment at Portsmouth?—So far as I remember, I had made inquiries about Cotsell from many people. I had gone over his smithy with him myself, when I was at Chatham.

1808. When were you at Chatham?—I forget the date. It is in the Chatham evidence; but it was at that particular time.

1809. At that time you had gone over his works with Cotsell?—Yes; I had been in the habit of asking who the best men were in the service from many people, master smiths and master shipwrights and others; and I always heard Cotsell's name mentioned in a very favourable point of view.

1810. Had you then, when at Chatham, having heard his name mentioned in that favourable point of view, held out any hopes of that transfer?—I gave him what I call the stereotype answer, an answer that I gave to the 10,000 applications that were always made to me, "that when it came under the notice of the Board, it should have my best consideration."

1811. It was your stereotype answer, that it should have your best consideration?—Not only to all persons in the dockyards, but to all persons who wrote.

1812. That, as a stereotype answer, meant very little?—Yes, meant very little.

1813. Then what induced you to do more for Cotsell, having given him an answer which at first meant so little?—If I had made up my mind to give Cotsell the place then, I should not have given him any other answer.

1814. I want to come to the next memorial or recommendation that induced you to transfer Cotsell as he wished to be transferred; can you remember what was the next point that induced you to do so?—I state to the Committee, that

my

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my information of Cotsell was formed from many conversations with different people at different times; and therefore, when Cotsell made this request, I considered that he was a person who deserved that it should be granted; the opinion which I had with regard to Cotsell is entirely borne out by Mr. Abethell's statement, which I here put in.

I BEG to submit the above * for the consideration of the Admiral Superintendent, and to observe that for professional ability and general fitness for the situation of master smith in this yard, with regard to faithfulness, economy and appreciation of modern improvements in smithery work, I have the highest possible opinion of Mr. Cotsell.

(signed) *R. Abethell,*
Master Shipwright.

1 February 1853.

* Request to be permitted to remain at Portsmouth, as Wells was willing to go to Chatham.

1815. What did you proceed on at the time; was he recommended by the Superintendent at Chatham?—The Superintendent simply forwarded his memorial.

1816. Did he forward the memorial, particularly mentioning anything in his favour; the Committee have got the memorial of Chatham Yard, 5th April; is this the memorial to which you refer?—I suppose it is.

1817. "I have the honour to transmit, to be laid before their Lordships, a letter of the master smith of this yard, signed by the Captain Superintendent, containing the memorial"?—Yes.

1818. Was it from that memorial that you proceeded further to consider the appointment of Cotsell?—That memorial stated that he wished for the appointment; my opinion of him was such, that I should have given him anything I could give him in the way of advancement.

1819. From what official authorities had you obtained any recommendation of his merits?—There was that memorial of 1849; perhaps the Committee will call for it; I have only got a copy.

1820. Have you got a copy of the memorial?—I think I have; but I would rather that the Committee got the original document. There is a memorial, I believe, in the Admiralty, a letter sent in January 1849; it need not take very long to get it from the Admiralty; it is an eulogy on Cotsell.

1821. Did you find that memorial before you appointed him?—I think I did; I think I have got a copy of it.

1822. As this was an appintment in which you were setting aside the opinion of Admiral Parker, can you recollect whether or not, before you appointed Cotsell, you had seen that memorial?—I cannot recollect the impression on my own mind; but I was fully convinced of the excellence of Cotsell; but I had gathered it in the way that people must gather such information, from many sources; and that he was what he has since turned out to be, by the testimonials he has got since. It was not my way in appointing people, that I merely got official documents with regard to their character. You might get the best official statements made, and the man might not be very desirable after all.

1823. Before transferring Cotsell from Chatham to Portsmouth, did you send to the Surveyor of the Navy for his opinion?—I knew the opinion of the Surveyor of the Navy; I gathered his opinion from his submission of the 9th of September.

1824. The submission of Wells, do you mean?—The submission with regard to Wells.

1825. Then you did not send again to the Surveyor to hear whether he had any opinion to offer in regard to the appointment of Cotsell?—No.

1826. In accordance with the Minute of 1847, was not that a case of transfer, being somewhat of the nature of promotion, on which it would have been fair to send to the Surveyor for his opinion?—I thought, rather, that the Surveyor, believing it was in my province, might have waited for my opinion, especially as I found no decision of their Lordships in the Board Minute-book or the General Minute-book.

1827. Before answering Mr. Wells' memorial, did you bring it under the consideration of any of the Lords of the Admiralty?—I think not; my impression, in answering it was, that he would come and call on me, or write a letter that I could lay before the Board, or write a letter that could be received; the Committee will see, by the last paragraph of the letter: "If, however, from any communication with any of the officers of the several departments, you have been led

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led to expect such an appointment, their Lordships are prepared to give their consideration to any memorial from you on that subject." When I wrote that, I was firmly convinced that a day or two would bring another memorial from Mr. Wells.

1828. You being then aware that Admiral Parker had initialed the paper recommending him?—Yes.

1829. Which would have been sufficient to lead him to expect such an appointment?—He had never seen it.

1830. If he had heard of it?—Yes.

1831. Then you wrote to him, "I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty;" you commence your letter on his memorial in that form; are the Committee to understand that you did that without having communicated with the Lords of the Admiralty on the subject?—The phrase, "I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty," is entirely formal; I could write no letter except from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

1832. That, again, was a stereotyped form that you used?—Yes.

1833. When you made that communication to Mr. Wells, were you aware of the submission of the Surveyor respecting his case?—I before stated that I saw it when I first came home.

1834. Did you not think that might lead him to expect such an appointment?—I had no reason to suppose that the Surveyor of the Navy would communicate with him without communicating with the Board.

1835. Did you not think that the inquiry which the Surveyor of the Navy had made, as appears from his letter of the 9th of September, could hardly have been made without Mr. Wells getting some intimation that some such advantage for him was thought of?—If there had been that intimation, I should have thought that, in the interval between the 10th of September and the 1st of October, some communication would have passed between the Surveyor of the Navy and the Board of Admiralty at Whitehall, in reference to the non-issuing of the letter of appointment, and the warrant of appointment.

1836. Do you consider that your getting no paper on the subject, after your letter to him, was sufficient proof that he had not been led to expect such an appointment?—Not that he had not been led to expect such an appointment, but that he had not received any notice of such an appointment. I called Mr. Wells, in the House of Commons, the *protégé* of the Surveyor of the Navy; I did not do it in any discourteous or unkind spirit, but I merely meant what the Surveyor himself states here: "I feel, in a measure, personally responsible for the serious injury which, by the cancelling of his appointment, has been inflicted on this highly-deserving individual."

1837. It has been stated here, at question 818, that on the 2d of October, or thereabouts, Commodore Eden went with Sir B. Walker to the Admiralty, and saw Admiral Hyde Parker, and showed him the appointment of Cotsell?—Yes.

1838. And Admiral Parker said, "It was impossible; for it was only the day before Mr. Stafford had expressed his wish that Cotsell should be removed to Portsmouth, and I told him it should not be done." Now do you remember a conversation in which you expressed to Admiral Parker a wish that Cotsell should be removed to Portsmouth, and in which he told you that it should not be done?—That must be the conversation to which I referred before.

1839. That conversation was a remonstrance against its being done?—Against its being done.

1840. This answer, so given here, gives the Committee reason to think that Admiral Parker had power to prevent its being done; if the Committee have that notion, is it erroneous?—Admiral Parker had not power to prevent it being done, because it was done against his wish.

1841. And it was done by yourself, you exercising then, as you thought you were justified in doing, the authority from the First Lord?—Certainly, I thought I had authority to do this; it is obvious I had authority, from its never having been undone, and never having been brought before the Board during the time we were in office; if I had committed a great irregularity in taking any of the First Lord's patronage, it would have been competent to any member of the Board to have brought it before the Board, but no member did in any way whatever; I can also confirm the statement of the Surveyor at the conclusion of this question.

1842. That statement is, that Admiral Parker was very much annoyed, and said, "If this is the case, either Mr. Stafford or I will leave the Admiralty;" that

that was said in the presence of Commodore Eden?—I can confirm that I heard of its having been said.

1843. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated that you named Cotsell's appointment to the First Lord; when you stated that you had appointed Cotsell, did you also state to the First Lord, or have any communication with the First Lord, with reference to Admiral Parker's objection to the appointment of Cotsell to Portsmouth?—I think that the First Lord was in the country at the time, and the appointment took place before his return.

1844. Did you ever speak to the First Lord on the subject of the appointment of Cotsell after the Duke of Northumberland came back to the Admiralty?—Yes.

1845. Did you at that time state what Admiral Parker's objections had been?—I think the initiative was always taken by the Duke, who stated Admiral Parker's objections to me.

1846. Did the First Lord acquiesce in the appointment of Cotsell, notwithstanding those objections?—If the First Lord had otherwise than acquiesced in the appointment, I should have cancelled it; he would have obliged me to cancel it.

1847. Did he remonstrate at all with you for having appointed Cotsell in defiance of the remonstrance of Admiral Parker?—No, I do not think he did; certainly his remonstrance did not take any tangible form.

1848. Did he remonstrate with you at all for having acted in defiance of the remonstrance of Admiral Parker?—I think he rather sent me some letters of Admiral Parker's, and told me to send an answer to them.

1849. Before the appointment, or after it?—After.

1850. Then you had no communication at all whatever with the Duke of Northumberland before the appointment of Cotsell, neither did his Grace communicate any letters that he had received from Admiral Parker?—He gave me one letter.

1851. Before the appointment?—No, after the appointment.

1852. Are the Committee to understand distinctly that the Duke of Northumberland did not remonstrate with you for having appointed Cotsell after you had received a remonstrance from Admiral Parker on that subject?—As far as I remember, the Duke of Northumberland rather seemed to be acting the part of a mediator. I do not know that he pronounced an opinion; he rather looked to making peace between Admiral Parker and me.

1853. It has been stated to the Committee, that it was decided by the Lords of the Admiralty that a man should be taken from a private yard?—That I deny. There is no record of it in the books. It was never once brought before the Board, or signed by any single member of the Board; it is neither in the Board book, nor in the Minute book.

1854. Surely a submission of the Surveyor of the Navy was sent in, in which the Surveyor of the Navy intimated that the master smith was to be taken from a private yard, as in the case of Black and Ainslie, and upon that submission Wells was named?—Yes, that was the second step; the memorial of September the 9th referred to the non-existing document. It says, "With reference to the accompanying letter from the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth, and to their Lordships decision;" that is in the memorial of the 9th of September 1852, and is referred to again in the memorial of 16th of October 1852, in which it seems more definite: "When their Lordships decided in August last." "A decision" which has no trace in the Board book or in the general Minute book, and which is now stated by the Surveyor to have been given by the First Naval Lord, either verbally or in a private letter which does not appear, cannot be called a decision of their Lordships.

1855. Whether there was a submission to their Lordships that an experienced master smith should be appointed to Portsmouth Yard from the private trade, or whether there was not that submission, in page 2 of the Return will be found that the provisional appointment of Wells was made to Portsmouth, signed, as stated, by the chairman, by Captain Hamilton, addressed to the Admiral Superintendent; and a duplicate of that is sent to the Surveyor of the Navy and the Accountant-general?—Yes.

1856. As, notwithstanding the existence of those documents, you appointed Cotsell to Portsmouth, and it does not appear that there was any official recommendation of Cotsell to Portsmouth, and that there was a strong remonstrance on

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the part of Admiral Parker against the appointment of Cotsell to Portsmouth, we wish to know whether that circumstance was brought under the consideration of the First Lord; did the First Lord remonstrate with you on the appointment of Cotsell, or did he acquiesce in the course which you had taken?—My answer was, that he seemed to treat it rather as a question of mediating between Admiral Parker and me.

1857. How did he mediate?—He thought Admiral Parker was very much annoyed, and he wished me to do something to remove his annoyance.

1858. What was done in consequence?—Nothing.

1859. You say that you consulted with Captain Duncombe and Sir Thomas Herbert, with reference to the appointment of Cotsell?—I think I named it also to Sir Phipps Hornby.

1860. But you consulted with Captain Duncombe and Sir Thomas Herbert?—Yes.

1861. When you consulted with them, did you allude to the remonstrance of the First Naval Lord to the appointment of Cotsell?—Yes.

1862. What took place on that?—They were of opinion with me that Cotsell's case was a good one, and ought to go forward.

1863. In despite of the remonstrance of the First Naval Lord?—Their opinion was, that it was not within the province of the First Naval Lord.

1864. In despite of the remonstrance of the First Naval Lord?—Yes.

1865. And were they aware at the time that the submission of the Surveyor of the Navy in favour of Wells had been approved by Admiral Parker?—If it had not been approved by Admiral Parker, the promotion would not have gone forward, despite the opinion of the First Naval Lord.

1866. Were they aware of the submission of the Surveyor of the Navy having been approved by Admiral Parker?—Yes, I should think so; all the papers were on my table.

1867. You say if a letter had been sent to Wells himself, or a warrant made out, you would not on any account have recalled Wells?—No, I should not have recommended it.

1868. Was not, in point of fact, the letter which has been read by the Chairman, addressed to the Superintendent at Portsmouth, and addressed to the Surveyor of the Navy, a virtual appointment of Wells?—By no means.

1869. But by those letters he was appointed on probation?—A man has no right to know of the existence of those letters.

1870. And the only document which was wanting, was the warrant which was not signed?—And the letter, he had not had letter or warrant.

1871. Is it not usual when an appointment of this kind is made out so far as it goes in those two letters, and a warrant is made out in conformity with those letters, and sent up to the Secretary of the Admiralty, either the first Secretary or the second Secretary, in case the first is absent, that the second Secretary should sign that for the first Secretary?—Yes.

1872. Why was it not done in this case?—Because it was stopped by Captain Hamilton.

1873. Under what authority did Captain Hamilton stop it?—I had asked him to look after my patronage; while I was away, he did my business for me.

1874. Did you give any instructions to him in this particular case?—I could not say I did or did not, but I did generally; I asked him not to let any appointment belonging to me go forward in my absence.

1875. As this was a case that assumed some importance, cannot you say whether you gave Captain Hamilton any instructions in this case?—I am quite willing to take on myself the responsibility of having stopped it.

1876. Then Captain Hamilton acted out of the routine of business in not signing this warrant, and sending it forward?—I should say that he acted out of the routine of business in signing the two first letters.

1877. Having received those letters, having signed those letters himself, and having sent first the one to the Admiral Superintendent, the other to the Surveyor of the Navy, and the other to the Accountant-general, and having at the same time he received those three letters, and signed those letters, the warrant confirming the appointment of Wells, did he not act out of the routine of the due discharge of his duty, in not signing that warrant so sent him for his signature?—I can hardly say that he acted out of the due routine of his duty.

1878. Is it not generally the case that when appointments are sent up in this form,

form, and a warrant is sent up for the signature of the Secretary, and he signs the letters which go forward to the official personages; is it not generally his duty, and does he not generally sign the warrant that is sent up at the same time?—Yes, he does.

1879. Why did he not sign it in the present instance?—Because I had asked him to keep back the appointment.

1880. You say it was not your habit to appoint solely on the recommendations contained in official communications, but that you often looked into considerations which might be sent you in the shape of private recommendations?—And in the shape of conversations; that would not refer alone to dockyard appointments.

1881. Speaking generally?—Yes.

1882. Did you ever ask for any official information with reference to Cotsell, and his qualifications for a removal to Portsmouth?—No.

1883. Then you acted solely from your own judgment, and from communications unconnected with those who were in communication with the Admiralty?—I had statements of Cotsell's career in the service before me.

1884. That is not an answer to the question; are the Committee to understand that you did not look for any official information as to Cotsell's qualifications?—Not at that time.

1885. The Committee has had some information respecting the documents having relation to the appointment of Wells; what became of those documents?—I cannot say.

1886. Mr. Piers was understood to say that they were placed either on your table, or the table of your private secretary; and you were also understood to say that you would take all responsibility in reference to those papers on yourself?—I gave Sir James Graham a letter on that subject; I stated I was willing to say I saw the document, and, to the best of my belief, it was exactly similar to that in the Parliamentary Return, 271, p. 1.

1887. Having traced those documents, as has been done, from Captain Hamilton to Mr. Piers, and from Mr. Piers either to Mr. Grant or yourself, can you give any information in relation to those papers?—None whatever; I never knew they were lost till some months after I had left office.

1888. *Chairman.*] In saying that Mr. Wells was the *protégé* of Sir Baldwin Walker, you did not intend any imputation on Sir Baldwin Walker as to favouring him unfairly for the service?—Not the slightest; what I meant to say was, that as Sir Baldwin Walker had introduced Wells, it seemed more than ever his duty when he had got the letter, and found that Wells had not received the appointment, to communicate officially with the Admiralty on the subject.

1888.* Sir Baldwin Walker states at Question 3520 of the Chatham Evidence, in which he was asked "I venture to ask you, was it not out of the ordinary course of your duty your sending that communication to Wells? It certainly was, I may say, out of the ordinary course of duty; but the Admiralty, not having had the address, I concluded the letter had not been sent to him on that account"?—All I can say is, if I had received a public letter or private letter from Sir Baldwin Walker, to state, that which I find from the Parliamentary Papers, that Wells had communicated with him, I should have treated it with every possible consideration; but the fact was, that I had no communication, no knowledge at all.

1889. And in your communication with Admiral Parker, when he remonstrated upon the appointment of Cotsell, he did not bring that specially to your notice?—No, certainly not; as far as I remember, he said, "Well, he is appointed;" I then inquired, and found he was not.

1890. You referred the Committee the other day to a circular of 1849, not being a Board Minute, therefore it did not require a Board Minute to cancel it?—Yes.

1891. Late in the day I obtained that circular from the Admiralty, and that circular was signed by the Secretary, and initialed by the First Lord of the Admiralty?—I do not remember; I am quite willing to accept it.

1892. Was your circular cancelling the circular of 1849, initialed by the First Lord of the Admiralty?—No, I think not; I am certain it was not; to the best of my recollection it was not.

1893. You will see there it is "Approved, H. P.," which is Parker; and below are not those the initials of Sir Francis Baring?—Yes, "Write accordingly, F. B."

1894. That carries with it the sanction of the First Lord of the Admiralty of that day?—Yes.

 1895. Now,

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1895. Now, before you issued the circular cancelling it, did you not send for that circular to see in what way it had been prepared?—My belief is, that I looked at the Board books and General Minute-books.

1896. But you did not look for the original document, to see in what way it had been prepared?—As far as I remember, I am bound to tell the Committee frankly it was issued very early after I came into the office, and I did not attach the importance to it that is attached to it now, and I might attach to it at a later period.

1897. If you had a further experience of office, you think before cancelling an order which had been in force some years, you would have looked at the original document, seen on what authority it rested, and consulted further before you cancelled it?—Quite so; with my present experience I never would have cancelled it without bringing it before the Board; I am bound to say frankly, that I think it was a hasty step of mine to do it, and I say I was young in office at the time; I did not attach the importance to it that it has now assumed.

1898. We have sent to the Admiralty; you wished for the memorial of January 1849: we are told that the only letter in January 1849 respecting Mr. Cotsell is the enclosed; it relates to a set of tools of his invention for making iron bindings and swivel blocks; state whether that is the memorial to which you referred?—This is the memorial to which he refers in his own memorial.

1899. Is that a memorial to which you attach considerable weight?—Yes.

Chatham Yard, 13 January 1849.

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter from Mr. Cotsell the master smith of this yard, setting forth the merits of certain tools constructed by him for making the "bindings" of all descriptions and sizes of swivel blocks under Nasmyth's steam hammer, together with the report of the professional officers thereon, in which I fully concur. I have directed a specimen of these bindings to be forwarded by coach on Monday next for their Lordships' inspection; and I would venture to submit, as the smiths here are scarcely able to keep pace with the other works of the yard, that, should their Lordships approve of the introduction of these tools, Mr. Cotsell be directed to make a set of them, and that they be sent to the other yards as patterns, for the guidance of the officers in making the bindings, instead of their being made here under his inspection, as proposed by him.

Sir, Chatham Yard, 9 January 1849.

Having constructed tools for making the "bindings" of all descriptions and sizes of swivel blocks under Nasmyth's steam hammer, and which you, together with Mr. Assistant Lang and the storekeeper have seen in operation, I beg to state the advantages of this mode of manufacturing these articles, as compared with the ordinary mode of forging them; 1st, the iron, while at a welding heat being so thoroughly compressed in the tool, they are stronger and neater than when made by hand in the ordinary way; 2d, they are also much cheaper, as the most difficult part, the swivel head, is formed with the greatest accuracy in about three minutes; whereas it would occupy a good smith as many hours to produce an equal amount of work; and being, moreover, made of "scrap" iron, there is the further saving between the price of "blooms," and new bar-iron. In this smithery alone upwards of 400 swivel block bindings have been made during the year 1848: supposing only an equal number for Portsmouth, Plymouth, Woolwich and Sheerness, will give 2,000 bindings (worth as many pounds sterling), a most important item in smiths' work, of which fully one-third of the entire cost might be saved by the use of these tools. I respectfully request you will be pleased to bring this subject under the notice of the Captain Superintendent, that specimens of these bindings may be forwarded to the Board of Admiralty, with the view to their general introduction, in such manner as their Lordships may direct. That the full benefit of this invention might be secured to the service, I am prepared to make these bindings under my own inspection, to the state in which they come from the steam hammer for transmission to the several dockyards, as may be demanded. I am, sir, your obedient, humble servant, George Cotsell, master smith.

The officers are to report hereon.
11 January.

Chatham Yard, 12 January 1849.

Having seen bindings made by Mr. Cotsell's method, we are enabled to state that his representation is entirely borne out, and it would appear to be very advantageous, that wherever there is a Nasmyth's hammer, the same mode should be adopted, by which much saving of time and expense would accrue.

Their Lordship's minute it thus:

"Approved,—My Lords are much pleased with Mr. Cotsell's discovery, and wish a set of tools to be prepared as a model for the other yards.—January 17. H. G. Ward."

The substance of that was brought before me, and when I was at Chatham, Cotsell showed me the nature of this improvement he had made on that hammer. From the

the conversations I have had with engineers, I attached great importance to everything belonging to Nasmyth's hammer, and when I went to any dockyard, I always saw any experiments that were to be tried with that hammer. *A. Stafford*, Esq. M. P.

1900. Then, although you are not quite certain that you yourself had seen that document before you had appointed Cotsell, yet you had, from Cotsell's own representation, heard the purport of it?—Yes. 3 May 1853.

1901. And heard that he had received the flattering approbation of the Admiralty of that day?—Yes, he was very proud of it.

1902. Now, as you have mentioned many circumstances that led to the preference of Cotsell, had Sir Frederic Smith recommended Cotsell also to you?—Yes, I think he had.

1903. Sir Frederic Smith had also brought Cotsell to your notice?—Yes; Sir Frederic Smith had given me the highest opinion of Cotsell.

1904. Sir Frederic Smith had been in command at Chatham?—Yes, he had been at Chatham some years.

1905. Had he, from his command, any means of judging of Cotsell's capabilities?—Yes; I think he was rather fond of that sort of thing.

1906. Was he not there at the head of the Sappers and Miners?—It would be better to put in his own statement on his own examination. Perhaps it will be enough for the Committee to say, from my own recollection, that my notion was, that Sir Frederic Smith was fond of engineering, and had frequently visited the dockyard, and seen Cotsell at work. I state, to the best of my own belief, that Sir Frederic Smith was a competent person to judge of Cotsell, he recommended him to me.

Captain *Peter Richards* called in; and Examined.

1907. *Chairman.*] ARE you Superintendent of the Dockyard at Chatham?—I am. Captain *Peter Richards.*

1908. How long have you been there?—I shall have been there four years in June; I went there in June 1849.

1909. Who appointed you there?—I was appointed under Sir Francis Baring's Board.

1910. In whom actually was that appointment vested?—Sir Francis Baring himself; it was he who offered it to me.

1911. He appointed you in June 1849?—He did.

1912. Where had you been previously?—I had been superintendent of Pembroke Yard.

1913. For what period?—About seven or eight months.

1914. Where had you been before that?—I had commanded the "Hibernia" before that.

1915. Where had you been?—In the Mediterranean.

1916. Lord *Hotham.*] Were you in China before that?—Yes.

1917. *Chairman.*] You had been at Pembroke, and then Sir Francis Baring appointed you to Chatham?—Yes.

1918. I wish to call your attention to this: Sir Francis Baring has sent a letter to this Committee, in which he says, "The Committee may find it necessary, in the performance of their duty, to call before them officers who served while I was at the Admiralty, and of putting to them questions relating to what passed between them and me; I, therefore, take the liberty of requesting, if the Committee should see no objection, those officers should be informed, when so questioned, that I release them from any obligation of secresy; and they are at liberty, and it is my wish, that they should communicate to the Committee, without the slightest reserve, any communication, either written or verbal, that they may have had with me which in any way affects the subjects before the Committee." You understand, therefore, that you are at liberty to answer before this Committee as to any private conversation you may have had with Sir Francis Baring?—Quite so.

1919. When Sir Francis Baring appointed you Superintendent at Chatham, did he give any directions one way or other respecting your conduct with regard to politics?—He did. If you will allow me, I will read from Sir Francis Baring a letter, which quite bears on that point. It is dated at the Admiralty, 26th April 1849; after offering the appointment, Sir Francis goes on to say, "There must

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must be one understanding, that you will not meddle with politics; I make this understanding with opponent and friend, and I do not think you are likely to object to a condition which will oblige you to look after the public service alone;" to which I will read my reply: "The condition you are pleased to attach to your gratifying offer is most acceptable to me, and I pledge myself to its rigid observance; indeed had I been in a position to have proposed any stipulation, it would have been precisely that which you are pleased to attach, and which claims my added thanks."

1920. Had you, previous to the summer of 1849, ever taken any active part in politics?—Never: I have never taken any part in politics at all.

1921. And we see, from that letter of your's, you did not wish to take any?—Decidedly not. I may go further and say, that if I had been required to enter into politics, I should have declined the appointment.

1922. Then the Committee are right in supposing that you have not taken any part since in politics?—Most distinctly not; not in the slightest degree.

1923. Did you find a strong political feeling among the officers at the dockyard at Chatham?—I cannot say so much among the officers, but there is decidedly a strong political feeling among the people. It is the same there as everywhere else; the voters in the yard are some on one side and some on the other, probably nearly equally divided. On that I can give little information, because, abstaining from politics, I did not wish to know, and avoided knowing what the men's opinions were, for it might be thought that I was biased in my conduct towards them.

1924. Having been appointed in June 1849, the Admiralty isssued a circular order in September 1849?—I quite remember that.

1925. Did you receive that circular?—I did.

1926. Did you approve of the purport of that circular?—Most certainly.

1927. You had had some little experience of the previous system a few months at Pembroke before?—I had.

1928. Was it from any knowledge you acquired there that you thought such a circular desirable?—I thought it better that the thing should go direct at once to the Surveyor, and then from him to the Admiralty, rather than go to the Admiralty, then to the Surveyor, and then come back again; but in the practice I had at Pembroke, the circular of 1847, beginning the new system in the dockyards, was in full force, and under Mr. Ward was rigidly adhered to.

1929. Did that circular of 1847, according to your belief, give to the Surveyor of the Navy an opportunity of recording his opinions upon a promotion?—I certainly thought that the office of Surveyor of the Navy was one that required that he should have a voice, and a very large voice, in all dockyard appointments, particularly in all things connected with ship-building, which is the chief work of the dockyard. The rope-walk and the sail-loft are generally supposed to be more under the storekeeper-general; but all matters relating to the building of ships and smithies come under the Surveyor of the Navy and his assistants, and therefore they are more likely to have a better knowledge of the value of the different officers than almost anybody else.

1930. Now, while you were at Pembroke, did any case for promotion occur which you reported to the Admiralty?—I do not think many; the yards were reducing. I came to Pembroke at the close of the year 1848; the yard was reduced in March 1849; therefore there were very few. I do not recollect, immediately, any promotion while I was at Pembroke.

1931. Then, from the period of that circular in 1849 up to April 1852, as far as you are aware, was that circular of 1849 rigidly followed?—Yes, certainly; there was no recommendation sent from Chatham Yard that was not met by their Lordships' favourable notice; the men I recommended were appointed in all cases, and none others; I speak of promotions.

1932. Then the circular issued by Sir Francis Baring, as First Lord of the Admiralty, was, up to April 1852, fairly carried out and adhered to?—Certainly.

1933. When did you first receive notice in 1852 that that circular was to be cancelled, or was cancelled?—I have not the date of its receipt; but I know it was dated the 19th of April, and I must have received it the day following, or within two days.

1934. Did anything occur upon your receiving that; did you write to any one on the subject, or did you communicate with any Lords of the Admiralty upon

upon the subject?—I did not; it was issued in the names of their Lordships, and therefore I thought they were perfectly well aware of it, and that a representation from me was, in fact, not necessary.

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1935. Was it your opinion, that cancelling, by the circular of the 19th of April, the previous circular of September 1849, was injurious to the service of the dockyard?—I think so; because it seemed to me calculated to destroy the voice that the Surveyor had, and ought in my judgment to have, in all dockyard promotions.

1936. Then you think that the system should be persevered in, which gives first to the Superintendent of the Dockyard, and next to the Surveyor of the Navy, the means of recommending, to a certain extent, and of controlling the appointments?—I have no doubt whatever of it; you asked me just now if the order had been fairly carried out under Sir Francis Baring; I think I can show that Sir Francis Baring was determined that it should be so, in consequence of a private recommendation, or a recommendation made from other sources than through myself, in favour of a workman in the yard, about which Sir Francis Baring was very much displeased, and wrote to me, and I saw him; I had two interviews with him on the subject; if you will allow me, I will read his note. In July 1849, when I had been about three weeks in the yard, I received this note from Sir Francis Baring: "Captain Eden will write you a letter respecting an application which I have had from one of your people; I should like to know the man's character in the yard, as his application is most improper, and I must take measures to put an end to these proceedings, which are worse at Chatham, I think, than any where else; this inquiry is not intended to be confidential; on the contrary, though not a letter by direction of the Board, it is well it should be known in the yard that notice has been taken of the memorial." I received also a letter from Captain Eden to the same effect: "Admiralty, July 2. Dear Richards; —I am desired by Sir Francis Baring to forward to you the accompanying letter from Joseph Ridgeway; you will observe that this application for promotion is made in direct contravention of their Lordships' circular of February 27th, 1847, under the head of Promotions. Sir Francis Baring would wish you to call upon 'Joseph Ridgeway' to give such explanation of his conduct as he may be able, and that you will forward such explanation to him.—Your's very truly, *Chas. Eden.*" I never kept a copy of my reply to Sir Francis Baring; but I went to town the next day, and saw him; at first I thought he had come to the conclusion that it would be necessary to dismiss the man from the service; but on a second conversation with him, he said, under all the circumstances, he was disposed to let the matter rest where it did. The application was made through some Portsmouth influence to procure his promotion, from being a second-class leading man to be a first-class leading man; and upon receiving Sir Francis Baring's letter, I sent for the man, and asked him how he had dared to disobey the orders of the Board, which were, that no private application should be made.

1937. Could you refer exactly to the order of the Board?—It is in the circular of 1847, that their Lordships will discountenance any workman who attempts to violate the orders. The man pleaded ignorance of the orders, although it was a notorious fact that they had been posted at the Ticket office (through which the workmen pass), previous to my taking charge of the yard.

1938. By the circular of February 1847, all workmen and officers in the yard were prohibited from making applications through other than their proper official channels for promotion?—Quite so.

1939. That circular, Joseph Ridgeway, by making this application through some of his friends at Portsmouth, had infringed?—No doubt of it.

1940. Were you on that account told to reprove him?—I was ordered to rebuke him for it.

1941. Which you did; and he stated he was not aware of it?—That he was ignorant of the thing; and I further told him that his having so done would prevent him being considered one of the candidates; another man was appointed.

1942. To go to the case of Joseph Ridgeway; I find it stated here in the evidence, at 989, that "Joseph Ridgeway, a second-class leading man at the metal mills, was promoted to be acting first-class, without the recommendation of the officers, who reported him to be not competent to fill that situation;" is that the same man?—Yes.

1943. Was that on the 5th April 1852?—Yes.

1944. Did you make a report respecting it on the 5th April 1852?—Previously,

Captain *Peter Richards.*

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on the 1st of March; the vacancy for leading man happened at the latter end of February. On the first of every month it is the custom to report to the Board, through the Surveyor, the number of vacancies, and who the superintendents recommended to fill them. As soon as the vacancy happened, I consulted the professional officers, who declared there was no man in the mills capable of filling the vacancy efficiently. I therefore wrote to the Board, with the monthly list of vacancies. "Extract from a letter from the Captain Superintendent of Chatham Yard, dated 1st March 1852, transmitting the usual monthly list of vacancies for workmen. 'First-class leading man of metal-mills. An entry from private trade is recommended for this vacancy, neither of the inferior leading men being competent for such a position.' (signed) *Peter Richards*, Captain Superintendent."

1945. Is the date of that 1st March 1852?—Yes.

1946. You then considered it desirable to take a man from the private trade to be first-class man at the metal-mills?—Decidedly.

1947. Was it from any experience you had at Pembroke, or from what other cause, that you thought it desirable to go to the private trade?—There was no man in the yard thought to be efficient for the work, and therefore we were of necessity forced to look to other places where it was certain we should find such a man, if the Government chose to pay the proper price for him.

1948. You had no such man in your yard, but there might have been a man in another yard?—Chatham is the only place where the work is carried on of rolling the copper and iron for sheathing and bolts.

1949. You desired to have a man brought from the private trade?—Quite so; we had no other means. It is right I should go on with reference to this case, to show that the Board did not approve of it. The next letter was "Admiralty, 5th March 1852. To the Captain Superintendent, H. M. Dockyard, Chatham. In return to your letter of the 1st instant, their Lordships approve that the several arrangements therein proposed be carried out, with the exception of the fresh entries of a painter and a first-class leading man in the metal-mills." Their Lordships did not approve of my proposition. The next letter from the Admiralty on the matter is dated 5th April 1852. "The Captain Superintendent, Chatham Yard. Joseph Ridgeway, second-class man in the metal-mills, is to be appointed acting first-class man in the present vacancy. By command of their Lordships. (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*"

1950. Upon receiving that letter, did you write any letter to the Admiralty, or make any statement?—I may say, I was a great deal surprised that an appointment should have been made of that kind, which seemed to me a violation of their Lordship's own orders. After considering upon the best course, I thought it was better to write to Mr. Stafford privately; I should say that Mr. Ward, when at the Admiralty, had enjoined on the Superintendents, in cases of difficulty arising, that they should write to him privately or officially, just as they pleased; and I, therefore, thought it better, rather than write an official letter, to write a private letter to Mr. Stafford, and it was written under the title of "private and confidential;" but I am glad to say Mr. Stafford has allowed me to produce the letter here.

(Private and Confidential.)

Chatham Dock-Yard,
8 April 1853.

Sir,

Under the very grave responsibility that rests on me, as the Superintendent of this dockyard, by their Lordships' instructions of the 27th of February 1847, and by Mr. Ward's letter of the same date, I hope I do not misunderstand my duty in referring to you in the mode permitted in Mr. Ward's said letter, the apparent difficulty caused by their Lordships' order of the 5th instant, for the promotion of Joseph Ridgeway, second-class leading man at the metal-mills to be acting first-class leading man thereat in the existing vacancy. The case of Joseph Ridgeway in truth presents much difficulty. He is neither considered by the professional officers under whom he serves, to be equal to the duties of first-class leading man, nor to be the best workman in the mills, either in ability or exertion. My letter of the 1st of March last submitted with reference to this vacancy, an entry from private trade, neither of the inferior leading men being competent for such a position. Ridgeway is one of these. The records of the mills show that Ridgeway has frequently been found far behind the other leading men in the amount of work performed. I have further to observe, that about three years since he involved himself in much difficulty by disobeying their Lordships' orders, in attempting to obtain promotion, this very position, through political influence, as will appear by the enclosed copies of notes from the late First Lord and his private secretary. For this proceeding, Ridgeway was openly reprimanded by me, by the personal order of the First Lord, with an intimation that any repetition of such conduct would certainly be followed by dismissal from the service. All these facts, though well

known

known in the yard, are not likely to have been brought under your notice; and it is therefore that I feel it a duty imperative on me to bring them before you previous to putting in force their Lordships' order, that you may be aware of the effect such a promotion must have in the yard, where it cannot but be known to be not only without the recommendation of the officers, but notwithstanding their representations of the want of merit and ability in the man. You will, I am sure, do me the justice to believe that I do not for a moment presume to question their Lordships making any promotion, or annulling any orders they in their better judgment may see fit, but that I am prompted solely by the feeling that I should be doing less than my duty, and falling short in the trust confided to me, if I abstained from putting you in possession of the whole state of the case. If I have erred in so doing; if I can have misunderstood the instructions and injunctions of the 27th of February 1847, which have induced me thus to address you, may I beg, as the greatest favour that can be conferred, you will be pleased to say so in such explicit terms as will leave no room for further doubts; I have much to regret in not having the honour of being personlly known to you; and also, that circumstances prevent me from making this communication personally rather than by letter.

Captain *Peter Richards.*

3 May 1853.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Peter Richards,* Capt. Supt.

I went to the Admiralty with this letter in my hand, hoping to see Mr. Stafford; but, unfortunately, he was out of town: appended to this are the extracts which I have read already from the letter of Sir Francis Baring, and Captain Eden's letter.

1951. It was on the 8th of April that you wrote that letter?—Yes; to which I received the following answer from Mr. Stafford: "Private and confidential. H. M. S. Retribution, off Portland, 11th April 1852. Sir; I fully appreciate the motives that dictated your letter of the 8th. The application of Ridgeway is now to go forward, and if he is found incompetent to perform the duties of his situation, it will, of course, devolve upon you to report officially to that effect."

1952. When did you receive that?—I must have received that on the 13th or 14th of April; the man's appointment was finally carried out on the 15th; I suspended the appointment because I thought it was possible, in bringing these circumstances under Mr. Stafford's notice, that a change might have been produced.

1953. Having been told to report after six months' probation, was it your duty to report how the man performed the work in the place to which he had been appointed?—I will explain: the man was stated merely to be an acting man; it was not stated that he was put under six months' probation, nor was six months named; Mr. Stafford desired that I would report; but I beg to be allowed to say, that, having made two such representations as I had made, and having brought under Mr. Stafford's notice the opinion of Sir Francis Baring of the man's misconduct in disobeying the orders of the Board, and it was clear that he must have disobeyed those orders a second time, otherwise his wish for an appointment was not likely to come under Mr. Stafford's notice, I was led to think that no further representations of mine would have any effect; and you will find that I had strong proof, after that, that my official representations were just as much regarded as my private ones.

The *Chairman* stated, that he had received the following letters, which were ordered to be entered on the Minutes:

My Lord, House of Commons, 3 May 1853.

In compliance with the wish expressed in the enclosed note from Mr. Disraeli, I have attended before the Dockyard Committee, respectfully to request that your Lordship will call Mr. Disraeli as a witness, should you, as the Chairman of that Committee, be of opinion that any evidence has been adduced before you, which can in any way impugn the character or conduct of Mr. Disraeli while he held office under the Crown.

I have the honour to remain
Your obedient servant,
Henry Gordon Lennox.

My dear Lord Henry, Grosvenor Gate, 3 May 1853.

I should feel very much obliged to you if you would have the kindness to attend the Dockyard Committee this morning, and state to the Chairman, Lord Seymour, that as my name has been injuriously introduced into the evidence, I am prepared and desirous to appear before the Committee at their convenience.

I am yours sincerely,
B. Disraeli.

Lord Henry Lennox,
&c. &c. &c.

Jovis, 5° die Maii, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Sir Henry F. Davie.
Lord Hotham.	Sir B. Hall.
Mr. Beckett.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Captain *George Martin,* R. N., called in; and Examined.

Capt. *G. Martin,* R. N.

5 May 1853.

1954. *Chairman.*] WHEN were you appointed Superintendent of Deptford Dockyard?—On the 10th of January last

1955. Who preceded you?—Captain Dundas was my predecessor.

1956. Had you been superintendent of any dockyard before?—Never; having heard Captain Richards' evidence, the only point which I am anxious to state to the Committee is, that the same conditions which were attached to the acceptance of office by Captain Richards, were also annexed to my acceptance of office by Sir James Graham, "that politics were to form no point in recommendations whatever," and that I was to be guided by "merit and proper conduct."

1957. Lord *Hotham.*] Having first gone to Deptford, in what way, as to new entries, would you be guided in the selection of persons to receive new appointments?—We recommend labourers when we have an opportunity.

1958. *Chairman.*] Since you have been at Deptford, have there been any new entries?—No, none whatever.

1959. Since you have been there, there have been none?—No, except shipwrights from the shipwrights' apprentices.

1960. Some apprentices have been entered?—Yes.

1961. Those who were apprentices in the yard before?—Yes.

1962. Who, having served as apprentices for a certain time, are entered as shipwrights?—Yes, there is a form by which they are examined by the medical officer, and their qualifications are stated, and what the instruction is in the schools; also their qualifications as shipwrights are stated by the master shipwright, and those returns are sent to the Board, and submitted for their approbation.

1963. In entering persons into the yard from being apprentices, do you make any selection, or any recommendation of the apprentices?—None whatever; they come in their routine, after they have served their time; if their conduct has been good, or bad, or indifferent, I take an opportunity of remarking upon it in a column, for their Lordships' information.

1964. And upon that column of remarks, would it depend whether or not an apprentice was entered as a shipwright?—That I cannot say; I suppose their Lordships would be guided by his conduct and capability.

1965. In the case to which you alluded, they were taken in the order in which they came?—Yes.

1966. There was no selection?—None; those were shipwrights' apprentices.

1967. Since you have been in the dockyard, have there been any promotions?—None that I can remember.

1968. Lord *Hotham.*] You have spoken of shipwrights' apprentices; what other class of persons are there?—Labourers, both in the dock and victualling yards.

1969. How are those selected?—Those are usually selected when there are labourers that come forward as recommended when there are vacancies, which occur at the commencement of every month. If there is a labourer to recommend, I take the opportunity of recommending him; I do not mean that they have occurred since I have been superintendent of the dockyard.

1970. You obtain the best information that you can as to the different individuals who apply?—Invariably; I have an opportunity of doing so from the police.

1971. Are they most of them persons on the spot?—Yes; mostly Irish labourers.

1972. Mr.

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1972. Mr. *Beckett.*] Do you give any preference to boys, sons of men employed in the dockyards?—Yes, certainly I should; all the entries of course would be the sons of artificers in the yard. I consider that they have a claim superior to any other person, and I give them the preference, provided their conduct is unexceptionable.

1973. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that you have occasionally recommended labourers, when there have been vacancies for labourers in the yard?—Yes.

1974. Before you proceed to recommend a labourer, from whom do you obtain information respecting that labourer?—That has been the practice in the victualling yard, principally; we have but few in the dockyard; we have had occasionally a great demand for labourers, and we have had extra labourers, and when those labourers have been occupied in the yard, I have had opportunities of judging. A book has been kept by the Master Attendant of the victualling yard, to ascertain the character of the extra labourers who have been employed on any occasion; and when a permanent labourer, or one on the establishment is appointed, have usually selected the best of those who appear among the extra labourers, and of whose conduct we have opportunities of judging.

1975. Your selection of permanent labourers, as I understand you, has been usually taken from the extra labourers?—Yes.

1976. When extra labourers are required, how are they obtained?—By public notice; by information; and there are thousands of applicants outside the dockyard gates.

1977. What wages do you give to the extra labourers?—They have 2*s.* a day.

1978. What is the general rate of wages in the neighbourhood?—The general rate, I think, exceeds that.

1979. Then why, with the general rate of wages exceeding that, do you have those thousands of applicants at the dockyard gates?—Our work is generally permanent for a certain time, and the work they get outside the gates is very uncertain; they may have wages for some time, or for one day, and the next day be out of employment.

1980. Mr. *Beckett.*] What are your hours of labour?—They vary. Now, they come in at 10 minutes after seven, and work till six; in the winter, the hours are different.

1981. *Chairman.*] Since you have been at the dockyard, have any labourers been sent into the yard recommended from the Admiralty?—Yes; two or three to the dockyard.

1982. Those persons were recommended from different parts of the country, and sent to you as labourers, were they not?—The recommendations came from the Admiralty; the men came down to the yard with their recommendations.

1983. And you at once entered them?—Yes, if I find them fit for the service. The order for entry says, if they are fit, they are to be entered, not otherwise.

1984. Is there any stipulations as to age, or in what way do you judge of their fitness?—There is a regulation as to age.

1985. Then by "fit for the service," you mean fit for work?—Yes, the man is examined by the medical officer of the yard.

1986. If you found him unfit, though he was sent down by the Admiralty, you would reject him?—Yes, acquainting their Lordships that I had done so.

1987. Lord *Hotham.*] If a temporary labourer conducts himself well, he has a good chance of becoming permanent?—When an opportunity occurs, and a book is kept for that purpose by the Master Attendant, and that enables me to judge of his fitness to be in the yard as a permanent labourer. I am comptroller of both yards.

1988. That would probably account for the readiness of the people outside the dockyard to take temporary employment?—Precisely.

[The Witness withdrew.

Captain *Peter Richards*, R.N., called in; and further Examined.

Capt. *P. Richards*, R. N.

1989. *Chairman.*] THE other day, you were asked some questions on the subject of Ridgeway's appointment?—Yes.

1990. With regard to Ridgeway, you wrote a letter did you not, to Sir Baldwin Walker?—I did.

Capt. *P. Richards*, R. N.

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1991. That letter was written on the 9th of April 1852?—It was.

1992. And in that letter you stated "My fears point to the same direction as yours. In the Ridgeway case there can be no mistake, and if it be persisted in, the order of the 27th of February 1847, must be consigned to the tomb of all the Capulets. The order for the promotion runs, 'Joseph Ridgeway, second-class man in the metal mills, is to be appointed acting first-class man in the existing vacancy.' Now, as he is a second-class leading man, I can only understand it as to be acting first-class leading man, for which there is a vacancy, which the said Ridgeway wants, and reports have been current in the yard for some weeks that he would get it." You say that reports had been current in the yard for some weeks, from whom had you heard those reports?—It was told me, I think, in the early part of March, by the chief engineer, in whose department, as principal officer of the department, Ridgeway was; he said, that from what he had heard, he was afraid Ridgeway would be appointed first-class man, and I said, "It is quite impossible; after what has passed, it is utterly impossible such a promotion ever can be made." He said, "Well, sir, you may think that I am wrong, but I am very much afraid from what I hear it will be so." I said, "No, I am satisfied it will not be so;" and it was not till the appointment came down that I became convinced I was mistaken. That letter was in reply to one Sir Baldwin Walker wrote me, asking me what was the meaning of this information, and if I could explain it. I think the appointment came down on the 5th, his letter will be dated about the 7th; my reply was about the 9th or 10th. I perfectly recollect writing that letter.

1993. Mr. *Beckett.*] In the month of April?—Yes.

1994. *Chairman.*] What was the date of your letter to Mr. Stafford?—On the 8th of April.

1995. This was the following day?—That letter, your Lordship will perceive, was between my letter to Mr. Stafford and Mr. Stafford's answer; because I said I had put the order into my desk to wait Mr. Stafford's reply.

1996. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Which letter was dated the 11th?—Yes.

1997. *Chairman.*] In that letter you state, I observe, "I have put the order in my desk, and written to Mr. Stafford privately and confidentially, stating the whole affair quietly, but I hope firmly. There is an immense stake on the issue; for if we are beaten, we shall be over-run by a swarm around us, who are promising everything in the yard to their friends;" will you state a little more definitely what you mean by "swarm"?—It is perfectly well known in the neighbourhood, that the people outside the yard look upon the dockyard appointments almost as a species of property of theirs, and during such times as elections, they press forward through the influence of the Member, or through some influence which I do not precisely understand, to nominate persons to those appointments, and I felt that Ridgeway's case was so very bad, from his having been reprimanded before for disobedience of orders, that if such a man, incapable and disobedient, could carry that appointment, I could see no reason to suppose that any other man might not carry any appointment he wished to have.

1998-9. Did you have any communication with Admiral Parker upon this subject?—Subsequently.

2000. When was it?—I cannot exactly say at what time; I had two conversations with Admiral Hyde Parker, on the irregular appointments in the dockyard; one I know was in August, but I think the other must have been some time in the month of May.

2001. Had you complained to Admiral Hyde Parker of the course things were taking in regard to the interest of the dockyard?—Decidedly so.

2002. Were you aware of any person having recommended Ridgeway to the Admiralty at the time you wrote respecting him?—Not at all; I was not aware of it.

2003. You were not aware through what channel he was obtaining favour at the Admiralty?—No, certainly not; I had, of course, my suspicions, but they were not of that definite kind that I could positively state them, because, if I was asked why, I could scarcely explain why.

2004. It has been stated before this Committee by Mr. Stafford, that he had reason to believe that political influences were at work against Ridgeway?—I am aware that it has been so stated.

2005. Were political influences at work against Ridgeway?—Most decidely not. If the Committee will allow me, since the subject has been mentioned of the

the political influence against Ridgeway, I will produce some papers to show that the subject was discussed. I think, in the month of April, and I knew such communications had been made to the Admiralty, at least to some persons there, by whom I do not know; I was not allowed to know. Such fact was communicated to me by Captain Pelham, as a friend, who was the First Lord's Private Secretary; he wrote me a letter, which, if the Committee will allow me, I will read, with my answer. "Admiralty, 23d April 1852. (Private and confidential.) My dear Richards,—I am not writing to you by authority, but only for my own information and satisfaction, and in some measure in regard to yourself. Some little time back, there was a man appointed to the metal work (I forget the exact place), on promotion at your yard by Mr. Stafford, and I believe he had been reported unfit for the place by you. I am told that they say that the reason why he was always reported unfit, was on account of his politics being Tory or Conservative. If you can throw any light on the subject, I shall be obliged; and I wish you to know what is reported. I have always been a Conservative myself, but when the public service, or the efficiency of the service is concerned, nothing shall induce me to allow political feeling to have any influence. My chief is for the best man for the public service, and scorns a job. Yours, most sincerely, *Frederick Pelham.*" To which I replied, "Chatham Dockyard, 24th April 1852. My dear Pelham,—I am infinitely indebted for your more than kind and friendly note, on a subject which I beg and intreat may be thoroughly sifted to the bottom. If, indeed, I have ever lent myself to keeping any man back from promotion on the score of politics, I can only have done so either by a negligent abandonment of my duty to the hands of others, or by the forfeiture of my pledged word, given before receiving my appointment to this yard, 'that I would not meddle with politics,' in either case proving myself unworthy the confidence of any Board, and in the latter case unworthy the countenance of any honest man. You will, I am sure, believe me incapable of such conduct; and that there be no mistake, I indignantly deny that I have done either. The enclosed extracts from Sir Francis Baring's note and my reply, will show how positively my word stands pledged on this matter. Now to the history of the appointment, it shall be as brief as I can give it clearly. The man promoted is Joseph Ridgeway, from second class leading man at the metal mills, at 7 *s.* per diem, to be first class, or superior leading man thereat, at 7 *s.* 6 *d.* per diem. When I took charge of the yard in 1849, Ridgeway was second class leading man; a vacancy was in prospect for first class leading man; he set to work and obtained a request or requisition, for it was signed by many of Sir F. Baring's constituents, for promotion. The First Lord was highly displeased, not only refusing his countenance, but requiring me to state why the orders of February 1847 had been violated. He further ordered me to reprimand Ridgeway for his disobedience, in endeavouring to use political influence, and it was only after some time that he allowed the matter to drop without more serious notice; another man was raised to the vacancy. In February last the place again became vacant, and on the 1st of March I recommended an entry from private trade, 'neither of the inferior leading men being competent to the position.' Ridgeway's promotion followed; on receiving it, I addressed Mr. Stafford a private and confidential letter, under the injunctions laid on the superintendents in Mr. Ward's letter, 27th February 1847, to which Mr. S. replied, that the man was to be put into the station; and thus matters stand at present. It may be said that though neither negligent nor faithless, I have been duped by others. There are not the slightest grounds for such an impression. Averse to politics by inclination, as well as from a sense of duty, I have never asked the leaning of any officer or man, nor do I know in fact, but in a few and very obvious cases, the opinions or inclinations of any. I believe it is assumed that my chief clerk is on the Whig side; if it be true, he has been most scurvily treated." (I am sorry that that expression was used, but it was put in), "as with 37 years service he is only a second class clerk of five years standing." (My object was to show that this gentleman, if he had meddled with politics, had gained nothing by it.) "Be this as it may, I have never asked him an opinion, nor allowed him to say one word on promotions. I have been guided solely by the recommendations of the professional officers, aided by the best inquiries and observations I could make myself. In Ridgeway's case, the opinion of his unfitness rests with the chief engineer, a man of unflinching integrity, wholly unconnected with any local politics, and, I firmly believe, without any twist whatever in that way. Of Ridgeway's want of ability in matters of copper

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and iron, I cannot speak; but I have had many reasons for being satisfied that he is an eye-servant, and that the work has ever progressed more satisfactorily under other leading men than under him. Under these circumstances, ought I to attribute the objections to this man to political hostility. On my honour, I do not believe it. My impression is that the man has had a fair measure dealt him by his officers and by myself. I must not trust myself to remark on the channels by which the contrary belief has been produced at head-quarters; but the matter is of too much importance to the public service, to the existing orders on promotion, and the interference of the officers in politics, and, if I may say so, to my own personal character, for it to rest where it is; and I shall take the earliest opportunity of begging you to obtain for me an interview with the Duke, that I may at least disabuse his Grace's mind on the question, and not leave him under the impression that his first act of favour was bestowed unworthily." That alludes to his Grace having conferred upon me the good-service pension of the navy, immediately on coming into office. "When I may next see you, I will enter on other points connected with this matter; at present I will only observe, that in addressing the letter I did to Mr. Stafford, I believed I was doing my duty, and only what I had done in a case far less decided, with Mr. Parker, who thanked me for my suggestion, admitting the difficulty, and that it should not happen again. I again thank you for the greatest kindness one man could possibly show another, and beg you to believe how much I am yours, truly obliged, *Peter Richards.*" Then follow some enclosures, merely referring to this, which I will not trouble the Committee with. This renders it necessary, after reading that letter, and the mention of Mr. Parker's name, with the permission of the Committee, that I should go further, to show what that case was, that I referred to Mr. Parker; otherwise an impression may arise that it was a much stronger case than it really is.

2006. Will you state the particulars shortly?—I will read an extract from a communication I had with Mr. J. Parker, the former Secretary to the Admiralty: "Chatham Dockyard, 12th November 1850 (Private). Dear sir,—A doubt has arisen in my mind, which under the closing paragraph of Mr. Ward's letter of the 27th February 1847, I feel required to mention to you, and I am sure you will think me right in so doing; it is how far the removal of hired or extra men to the establishment, comes within the rule laid down for promotion, and whether those already in the yard should seek any better position otherwise than by the recommendation of their officers, who know their capabilities and character. In saying this, I have no other motive than that of securing the best position for the best men, and of making reward depend on good conduct." This alluded to a labourer, who was a hired labourer, being transferred to the establishment, the pay being exactly the same. In the order of 1847, there was no provision for such a case; in more recent orders it has been regulated that a man should be only transferred to the establishment on the recommendation of the superintendent. Mr. Parker's reply was through his private secretary. "Admiralty, 13th November 1850. Sir,—By Mr. Parker's directions I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to him of yesterday's date. Mr. Parker is much obliged for your suggestions with respect to hired men being placed on the establishment upon the recomendations of their officers; and he will take care that no men, already in the yard, shall be established unless their petition comes through the captain superintendent, and is recommended by him. I am, sir, your obedient servant, *Swinburne Ward.*"

2007. In writing that letter to the First Lord, you did it, as it appears, with some expectation that it might be laid before the First Lord?—The letter was not to the First Lord, but to the First Lord's private secretary; I thought that, in the confidence that might exist between the private secretary and his superior, it would very probably be so; in fact the Committee will see that I wished the whole subject to come fully before his Grace.

2008. You wished the subject to be inquired into?—Decidedly.

2009. You wished to have an opportunity of entering upon it before his Grace?—Quite so.

2010. Did you receive any answer to that letter?—None.

2011. Had you no opportunity of laying any further inquiry before the Board of Admiralty?—I beg your Lordship's pardon, when I say I had no answer; I have no recollection of receiving any letter in answer from Captain Pelham; I came to town very soon after, and through Captain Pelham obtained an interview with the Duke.

2012. How

2012. How soon did you come to town?—Before the month of May; some time between the date of the letter and the end of April.

2013. Then you saw Captain Pelham, did you not?—Yes.

2014. And, as I understand, you had an interview with the First Lord?—I had.

2015. Can you state to the Committee what was the result of that interview?—I will answer any question that the Committee may think proper to put to me; I would observe that there is a confidence implied on such occasions; and in speaking of a man in so high a position as the Duke of Northumberland, it is necessary that I should observe caution with respect to the confidence that I have alluded to; but I will say readily that when I left the Duke, I received his assurance that he had no belief of it whatever. He told me that he had never heard of such an imputation; that he did not believe it; and that he was quite satisfied I was devoting myself to the good of the service; that I was doing my duty honestly and honourably; and that I was to refer to him on all occasions, whenever I might see anything going wrong; his Grace's final words were, "Come to me or go to Parker." Therefore, when I had the assurance of the Duke of Northumberland, that he had never heard of this, and that he did not believe it, I really felt that the thing was quite beneath my further notice, and it was not necessary to take any further steps. I saw Admiral Parker afterwards, and mentioned the subject, and his answer was, "It is the first I have heard of it; I do not believe a word of it."

2016. This interview was either at the end of April or the beginning of May?—It must have been in April.

2017. The appointment having been made on the 11th of April?—The appointment was made on the 5th. I remonstrated on the 8th, and Mr. Stafford's final letter was dated upon the 11th. I must have received it on the 14th, and the man was put in the station the next day.

2018. You received no further intimation from the Admiralty respecting Ridgeway, after the interview with the Duke of Northumberland?—None whatever.

2019. You have given the Committee to understand that the Duke of Northumberland concurred in your view of the dockyard promotions?—Undoubtedly, that impression was left on my mind by what his Grace said.

2020. Then, having brought before his Grace that a promotion, which you considered improper, had been made, no step was taken towards cancelling that promotion, or reversing it?—Quite so; my object in waiting upon the Duke was not immediately as to that promotion; it was to vindicate myself from the charge of acting under political influence.

2021. It has been stated to this Committee, at Question 1378, by Mr. Stafford, that "Captain Richards was always looked upon as one of the strongest political partizans in the yard"?—I have read it in the papers, but the Committee will allow me to say that I read it with great astonishment, and I believe it will be read in Chatham, where this general opinion is said to be entertained, with greater astonishment than anywhere else. I can only deny most positively that it is so; I deny that I have ever shown such a feeling. I cannot have shown that which I do not possess; I have no political leanings or bias of any kind; I can never have shown such, and I have no difficulty in putting my decided contradiction on the minutes of this Committee; they must go forth to the world, and the world must judge between us; at the same time, I can only say that I should be very desirous of inviting Mr. Stafford to the proof. If the thing is so generally known at Chatham, it must be easy of proof.

2022. You mean that a man cannot, in this country, well be a strong political partizan in secret?—The Committee must know that, very well. My conduct, both privately and publicly, must be known to many men at Chatham. I associate with gentlemen in private and social life; and, if I have strong political opinions, they must certainly have transpired in some way or other. In the dockyard, if I had been guided by political motives, it must have been very apparent.

2023. Had you been acquainted with Sir Frederic Smith while at Chatham?—Yes, we were very intimate.

2024. He had been there for some years?—Yes; he was there, I think, three years of my time; in fact, I found him the officer at the head of the School of Engineering Instruction when I came to Chatham.

2025. Had you any private or personal difference of any kind with Sir Frederic Smith?—Never; on the contrary, as I said, we were friendly and intimate.

2026. Therefore, if on the one hand you were not a political partizan, acting against him, neither, on the other hand, had you any private hostility towards him?—Decidedly not. Sir Frederic Smith and Sir James Stirling both dined

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with me during the time of their canvass; I asked them to meet each other. They were both friends of mine, and I thought that was the only way in which I had a chance of seeing them. If I had invited either separately, I might have been accused of showing that one an amount of countenance; they both dined with me, and Lady Smith dined with me.

2027. Will you state whether, in your interview with the Duke of Northumberland, you stated the case of Ridgeway?—To the best of my recollection, I did.

2028. You stated to the Duke, generally, the circumstances, and what had previously taken place respecting Ridgeway in the time of Sir Francis Baring?—I am sure I did. I would rather have kept the interview of the Duke of Northumberland out of view, simply because it is difficult to say a part of what occurred and not to say the whole; but in consequence of the position in which Mr. Stafford has placed me by the assertion he has made, I feel that I am without a remedy, and that I must either put in these papers, to show every thing that I had done, or that I must run the risk of labouring or suffering under an imputation that I had broken my word; in fact, that there is no reliance to be placed in me at all. I beg that the Duke of Northumberland will excuse me if I go too far; I stated the case to his Grace, and asked him if he considered it would be any violation of confidence; I said that I did not understand that anything which related to matters inside the Admiralty, could be kept, or ought to be kept back from his Grace; and asked him if I had his permission to read my letter to Mr. Stafford to him, he said he quite agreed in the view I took, and he saw no objection at all; and the letter was read.

2029. You stated that the qualifications, or rather, the disqualification of Ridgeway, depended upon the knowledge of the chief engineer?—Certainly; it must strike the Committee that I must rely upon the departmental officers for a knowledge of the capability of this man. I may be the judge of their conduct generally, but I can hardly be the judge as to ability; indeed, it would be dangerous for me to set up my opinion in opposition to the officers responsible for the conduct of the workshops.

2030. The chief engineer was the officer responsible for Ridgeway, who was under him?—Quite so.

2031. Who is the chief engineer?—Mr. Laurie.

2032. Did Mr. Laurie take much part in politics?—I have given my opinion in my letter to Captain Pelham; I am sure he is a man of the highest integrity; I am quite sure of it; and I do not think he has any local politics at all; he may have his opinions, that I do not know; but I believe his principles are so good, that no twist whatever would ever draw him aside from his line of duty.

2033. How long has he been there?—I found him in the place; he has been there, I think, since 1847 or 1846.

2034. If Mr. Laurie had been the strongest political partisan in the yard, should you have known of it?—I think I should.

2035. Do you know whether or not he voted?—I do not think he did; indeed, I question if he had a vote. I had no vote at the election; and if I had, I need not say that I should not have used it.

2036. How long was Ridgeway continued in that situation?—He has been reduced within a month or six weeks.

2037. But according to the circular of February 27th, 1847, respecting dock-yard management and promotions, it was particularly recommended that weekly and monthly notices should be made of all the men in the yards?—That refers more immediately to the shipwright department.

2038. The system of weekly and monthly returns which are here ordered, refers to the shiprights' department?—Yes.

2039. Now, is there no system which requires you to make a return of these men's qualifications monthly, or within a certain period?—None.

2040. With regard to that which is done as to the shipwrights, would it be an advantage if that was extended to the other men in the yards?—It must be. I am, however, perfectly well aware of the capacity of these men, because I am frequently in the mills, mostly every day, and I have frequent conversations with the chief engineer as to the merits and demerits of the different men; but the Committee must not suppose that I had to form my opinion of this man when he became a candidate for promotion. He had been several times before me, and rebuked and reprimanded for his short-comings. I have no difficulty in saying that he was the worst of the leading men we had.

2041. Mr. *Beckett.*] He was removed from his situation on account of incapacity?—Yes; the Board of Admiralty called upon me to report.

2042. *Chairman.*] When did the Board of Admiralty call upon you to report?—I think it was in last March.

2043. You do not remember the date?—No, I have not the papers with me.

2044. Can you state what was the report made?—The report was made in general terms, that he was not fit for the situation of superior leading man; he had not a competent knowledge of mixing metals, and that he was not fit to take the place of the conductor of the mills, in the event of the conductor being absent. The Committee will understand that the chief engineer controls the metal department, and the machinery department of the yard, the metal mills, is a place for rolling iron, copper, casting, and making brass, and mixed metal castings. There is a conductor, and there is a superior leading man, who is supposed to be the assistant of the conductor, to assist him in the day-duty, and who ought to be able to take the place of the conductor in the event of his being out of the mills. Then there are four other leading men, called inferior leading men, whose business it is to handle, and actually assist in carrying on, the work; they lead the gangs and carry on the work themselves.

2045. Had you heard anything respecting Ridgeway's politics in the yard?—Not the least. I will own, from his having tried through Sir Francis Baring's constituents at Portsmouth, that I was rather prepared to find him on the other side; and I was a little astonished when I found him introduced as a Conservative. I had no other means of judging. I happen to have in my hand a memorandum, it is without date, but the last entry upon it is December 1851; it is one of those memoranda that I am frequently in the habit of calling on the chief engineer to furnish me with, and it runs thus: "In 1848, when Ridgeway was the only leading man employed in iron rolling, the average daily work ran from one and a quarter tons to two tons; but so soon as a second party commenced iron rolling, the average rose to from two and a half tons to three and a half tons per day. More difficulty has always been felt in getting a good day's work from Ridgeway, than any other of the leading men in the metal mills; and this was accounted for by Ridgeway neither having the ability to turn the work out of hand so easily, nor being so able to command the men attached to his gang. Ridgeway has always been more behind in his day's work than the others, and has had, in consequence, oftener to stay in after time to make it up." Then there are some details, comparing him with other men. That was given to me by the chief engineer, somewhere about the opening of the year 1852. We then saw that the superior leading man, an old man, was breaking down, and that we must look out for a change; indeed the man had intimated to me that he wished to be superannuated, as he was getting past his work. I called upon the chief engineer, as was my duty, to examine, notwithstanding what had occurred about Ridgeway before, whether he was really a capable man; and this is one of the remarks I find among my papers; it concludes with, "Ridgeway not being competent to turn out a proper day's work, he was sent to other work. I would merely remark, that in getting a new first-class superior leading man, he ought to be so qualified as to work the mills to much greater advantage than at present, especially on iron." Those were the reasons that induced me, in the recommendations before the Committee, to suggest that a man should be sought in the private trade, the chief engineer advising me that we had no man capable of doing the work.

2046. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You stated, did you not, that at the end of the memorandum there was a date?—No; the last report is the 8th of December 1851, and it remarks, that while another man had turned out 15 sheets of copper, Ridgeway had only turned out five.

2047. *Chairman.*] When you reported Ridgeway in March last to be unfit, you founded that upon the report of the chief engineer?—Quite so.

2048. Have you the chief engineer's report with you?—I have not; it is not here; it may be, I will not be positive, that his report was in writing, though probably it was; if so, it will be found in the records of my office; it may have been reported verbally. The order of the Board is, that the superintendents are to make their reports, after consulting with the departmental officers.

2049. As a matter of habit in the usual form of business, do not you generally endeavour to have a report upon a man's conduct for promotion, in writing?—Mostly; the rule is, when there is a vacancy, that the officers are called upon to propose three names, if three persons at all competent can be found, they are

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placed on the officer's list in the degrees of their merit; it is understood that I am to strike out one, and to send the other two to the Board, for their selection. Of course it will be very obvious in the cases of leading men, that cannot always happen, because, in some cases, we can only find one man, and it would be improper to put in men of straw, merely as a foil to the other.

2050. Can you ascertain whether you have that report in writing?—Yes, on my return to Chatham.

2051. Do you consider that this promotion of Ridgeway was contrary to the system introduced by the circular of 1847?—Most unquestionably, an entire departure from it.

2052. That system was, I believe, generally, that no promotion should take place without a recommendation from the superintendents of the dockyards, and that people should not be promoted who were not in their lists?—Quite so. In March 1847, there was a communication from the Board, from Mr. Ward, the Secretary of the Admiralty, and it says: "As any recommendation from parties not belonging to the yard will be regarded in future as disentitling those by whom they are sought to their Lordships' favour and consideration." Therefore, the very fact of Ridgeway going to seek a recommendation elsewhere, and where he found it I do not know; but that very fact, under the orders, disentitled him, if he had been qualified. I should have mentioned, that I could not recommend him. I may explain that in the affair that took place in Sir Francis Baring's time, I told him at once: "Whatever your pretensions may be, you are thrown out of the question; your disobedience of orders has disqualified you."

2053. It was to that order you referred when you censured him for the application which he made to Sir Francis Baring?—Quite so. If your Lordship reads the order of 1847, the whole spirit of it is that the men are to look to their officers, and to their officers alone; and the closing paragraph is very strong.

2054. You mean the words, "My Lords have now only to call upon the admiral and captains superintendents, the master shipwrights, and the other principal officers of the dockyards to assist them in working out this plan honestly"?—Yes; quite so; the latter part bears upon the case. "But the good or bad working of every system must depend in a great measure upon those who are entrusted with its administration; and my Lords can only express their determination to mark with their severest displeasure every attempt to thwart their intentions, and to reward those who shall cheerfully second them, by every proof of their favour and approbation." Under that order I considered from myself downwards, that every person in the yard who did not heartily concur in assisting to work out this system honestly, was incurring their Lordships' severest displeasure.

2055. Lord *Hotham*.] Does this order contain a direction from the Admiralty, that this should be generally communicated to all the men in the yard?—I do not think it does; but it was so, I was not in the yard at the time it was issued; but I know it was published, because in Ridgeway's case the thing came under my notice; he denied any knowledge of it; I made inquiries, and was informed that the order had been posted at the ticket stations, through which the men passed four times a day, for the information of the people.

2056. *Chairman*.] You stated that you have frequently seen a good deal of Sir Frederic Smith?—Yes.

2057. Was it the fact, as far as you are aware, that he had been canvassing the voters at Chatham?—Yes, I knew that, for some months before the election. I think three months. I cannot say positively as to the time, I know it was a great length of time.

2058. Had you any notion of it even previous to three months before the election?—He told me so; I met him as he was coming to my office in the yard; he told me he was going to stand for Chatham, and my answer to him was, "Very well" (we were on intimate terms), "I wish you luck, but I cannot give you the least help." He said, "I know that very well."

2059. With respect to your own appointment, had you any notion that you received your appointment through any political application?—I can only say that I never sought it; and I was never more surprised than when Sir Francis Baring's letter came to me. I had not the slightest idea of such a thing; as far as Sir Francis Baring can speak for himself, probably the better way will be to put in the entire letter. I did not do it the other day. I merely read an extract from it; the

the Committee will allow me to say, that I might have been accused of vanity if I had put in the whole letter, but I never made any application, and never had the slightest idea of having such an appointment. Capt. *P. Richards*, R.N. 5 May 1853.

2060. You had better put in the whole letter?—"Admiralty, April 26th 1849. —My dear Sir, I have this day received the account of Sir Thomas Bourchier's death, with much regret. This leaves Chatham Yard vacant, and it is an important yard. From what I have heard and seen of you, it will give me much pleasure if it should suit you. I shall feel satisfied that I have placed an important duty in the hands of one who will perform it to the advantage of the public service." Then follows the part I read the other day. "There must be one understanding, that you will not meddle with politics. I make this understanding with opponent and friend. And I do not think you are likely to object to a condition which will oblige you to look to the public service alone. Yours truly, *F. Baring*. Captain P. Richards, R. N. C. B." I repeat again, that I knew nothing at all of it. I will now read my answer, and that will show that I had no idea; nay, more than that, I will say no wish. "Pembroke Dockyard, 28th April 1849. Dear Sir,—I cannot sufficiently express the deep sense I entertain of the marked honour conferred, by your thinking of me for Chatham Yard, and of the very flattering terms in which you are pleased to convey your obliging offer, and to express your approbation of, and confidence in, my professional character. The great favour shown me in my appointment to this yard, far exceeded my pretensions, and left me, as to professional reward, without a wish. But as you are pleased to think my humble services can be made available elsewhere, I beg to place myself entirely in your hands, most thankfully acknowledging the favour and preference shown me, and assuring you that I shall ever persevere in using my best endeavours to discharge with zeal and fidelity whatever trust may be committed to my charge."

2061. You had been appointed to Pembroke Dockyard by Lord Auckland?—Yes.

2062. Are you aware whether or not in receiving that appointment you obtained it through any political interest?—Most decidedly not; I never asked for nor received a political favour in my life; Lord Auckland's offer came to Sir William Parker, whose flag-captain I was, in the Mediterranean. Sir William Parker asked me if it would be agreeable to me to go to the Pembroke Yard, when it was vacant. The Superintendent had arrived at the head of the list, and it was known that he must be soon made an Admiral; but I was so unprepared for the question, when he mentioned it in the afternoon, that I said, "I am not at all prepared to answer such a question; I would rather you would give me till to-morrow morning to think of it."

2063. As to another case that was brought to the notice of the Committee, the case of William Groves, the submission of the superintendent was read to the Committee at Question 140. Sir Baldwin Walker read the submission of the superintendent, dated the 10th of May; have you that submission here?—I have a letter, dated the 10th of May, from myself to the Board of Admiralty. Groves's case fairly commences in September 1851, when I submitted an entry from the private trade.

2064. Perhaps you had better begin from September 1851?—The vacancy for a forgeman fell out in September 1851, by the removal of a man who had held the post. My letter is dated the 17th of September 1851, and is addressed to John Parker, Esq., Secretary to the Admiralty. I may say that those papers are necessary to show that neither the officers nor myself considered that any man in the yard was qualified to take the post, and therefore we felt obliged to ask the Government to go to the private trade for a proper man. "Sir,—In bringing under their Lordships' notice the enclosed letter from the shipwright officers, recommending that the existing vacancy for a forgeman in this yard be filled by an expert workman from private trade, I am too deeply impressed with the necessity that exists for endeavouring to improve, by every practicable means, the workmen in the smithery, to fail in respectfully soliciting for this proposition their Lordships' most favourable consideration. The smithery, though unquestionably one of the most important branches of the establishment, does not, I fear, exhibit a large amount of skill amongst its workmen generally, especially as regards the working of Nasmyth's hammers. Judging from appearances, I can only suppose that on the introduction of those important and valuable implements the best men in the smithery were selected to work them, as a reward for faithful service, good conduct, and general skill as smiths, in the hope that their ability would be found

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equal to the task. The result has certainly fallen short of this, possibly, reasonable expectation; and I believe I am warranted in saying that very moderate advantages have accrued to the service from the use of these implements, as compared with the results obtained from them in private establishments. I am therefore induced to support the proposition of the officers, in which the master smith fully concurs, in the hope that should their Lordships' approve the entry of an expert and well-trained forgeman from a private establishment, it may tend to improvement calculated to benefit the public service."

2065. That was on the 17th September 1851?—Yes; covering a letter from the officers, addressed to myself. "Chatham Yard, 17th September 1851. Sir,—In consequence of the transfer of George Meager, to Halifax, there is a vacancy for a forgeman at the smithery. After much consideration, we are induced to submit that it would be for the interest of the service for a good forgeman to be entered from a private establishment; and we believe that for the rate of pay (8 *s.* per day), this may be obtained. At present we have not sufficient confidence in the experience of any of the men we have, to recommend one for this important duty; whereas, with an expert and trained forgeman, this work would in all probability be better conducted; and those of the men who were disposed, would have the opportunity of profiting by the experience of a skilful workman, and fitting themselves for a future vacancy." Signed by the shipwrights officers.

2066. What happened after that report of 1851?—The answer is from the Admiralty, dated "6th October 1851. To the Captain Superintendent, Chatham. In reply to your letter of the 17th instant, suggesting the expediency of obtaining the services of an experienced workman from the private trade to fill the vacancy of the forgeman at the smithery, occasioned by the transfer of George Meager to Halifax Yard, I am to acquaint you, that it appears to my Lords that such a step will be very beneficial to the public service, and they authorise you to take such measures as may be necessary for selecting a suitable person for the vacancy in question." I should say, that after that, efforts were made, and several men offered themselves, but none good enough; and the consequence was, that nothing was done, because nothing could be done in the matter; and so it remained till the 5th of May, 1852, when I received this communication from the Admiralty: "The Captain Superintendent at Chatham. With reference to the vacancy reported by you for a smith's forgeman, you are to state whether William Groves, acting supernumerary forgeman, is qualified to fill the vacancy. By command of their Lordships. *W. A. B. Hamilton.*"

2067. That was an application from the Admiralty to know whether William Groves was fit?—Yes.

2068. You had no communication with the Board upon the subject of William Groves?—Not at all, up to that time; that was the first time his name was brought before me by the Board. My reply to it was dated, "Chatham Yard, 10th May 1852," addressed to Mr. Stafford, the Secretary to the Admiralty. "Sir,—With reference to their Lordships' directions of the 5th instant, to state whether William Groves, who is a furnace-man, is qualified to fill the existing vacancy for a forgeman, I have the honour to enclose copies of the officers' representation to me on this subject, under date of 17th September 1851, and of my letter transmitting the same to their Lordships, requesting an entry from private trade for this vacancy, on the score of the incompetency of any of the smiths in the yard to fill it. I now beg to add a further report from the officers, of the 8th, called for in consequence of their Lordships' present reference; and further, to submit my own opinion on this subject. It has long been impressed on my mind, that the smithery of this establishment is, perhaps, more behind the general state of trade than any other handicraft carried on in the yard; not owing to any want of effort in the officers, but to the rapid strides made and making in the manufacture of iron-work in private establishments. In this march of trade, our backwardness is most apparent in the use of Nasmyth's hammers, the efficient application of which valuable instruments depends on skilful and expert forgemen; the post in question; and furnace-men of similar ability, without which these hammers must continue to be worked at a discreditable and almost profitless mediocrity. The vast distance between the yard mode of working these hammers, and that of private trade, has recently been fully illustrated by the experimental working of the new forge here, by skilful and expert hired men, obtaining always more than a double, and often a threefold result, manifestly not owing to want of exertion, but solely to want of skill in our men. It may be, that the wages allowed may continue to prove insufficient,

ficient, as it so far has, to obtain a well-skilled forgeman; it may be, that their Lordships may see objections to a sufficient increase for that purpose; still I would submit that William Groves should remain, as at present, a furnace-man, in order to stimulate him and others to a state of improvement sufficient to qualify for forgemen; thus, not merely bringing him forward, but creating a spirit of emulation among the smiths generally, which could scarcely be expected if the best post were to be given to any man short of the proper qualifications, however good his character may be. I quite concur in the opinion expressed by the officers on the preference to be given to an expert forgeman from private trade, who could instruct and improve our people. On these grounds, and believing William Groves not properly qualified, I respectfully submit my opinion, that his being placed in the present vacancy could not fail to operate prejudicially to the public service." This is a copy of the letter of the officers, dated the 17th of September 1851.

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2069. That letter you submitted with your report on the 10th of May 1852?—Yes. I submitted this report from the officers, the letter is dated the 8th of May 1852, and enclosed in my letter. "Sir,—In reference to your directions of the 7th instant, to report if William Groves is qualified to fill the vacancy for smith's forgeman, we beg to state, that if sufficiently high wages could be allowed, we should, for the reasons given in our letter of the 17th September 1851, prefer to have an expert forgeman entered from private trade, who could instruct and improve our people. But we have, contrary to our expectations, failed in getting a good forgeman for the present rate of pay, and none that have offered have been so good workmen as Groves, who is likewise a young and improving man." The next letter in the correspondence is, "Admiralty, 11th May 1852. To the Captain Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard. In return to your letter of the 10th instant, No. 58, respecting the want of sufficient experience and fitness in William Groves, furnace-man for the situation of forgeman, and referring to a report made to you on the subject by the officers of the yard on the 17th of September 1851, when the vacancy took place by the transfer of George Meager to Halifax; my Lords wish to be informed who has been doing Meager's duty since the above date." To which I replied. "Chatham Yard, 14th May 1852. Sir,—With reference to their Lordships' directions of the 11th instant, to be informed who has been doing duty as forgeman since George Meager's discharge to Halifax on the 17th of September 1851. I have the honour to enclose a report from the officers, showing the duty to have been done by William Groves, as the man best calculated of those in the smithery for its performance, till the 3d of April last. I would observe, for their Lordships' further information, that it is usual during the temporary absence of workmen in the smithery, whether by sickness or by discharge, where the duties must notwithstanding be performed, to put the man next best qualified into the place for duty and pay, under the superintendent's approval, till the return of the absent man, or the permanent appointment of one fully qualified; as in the case of hammer-men, who are occasionally subsituted for firemen. The hammer having ceased to work from the state of furnaces, on the 3d of April, Groves necessarily reverted to his pay as furnace-man, working as a fireman." The officer's letter enclosed is, "We beg to state, that no expert or well-trained forgeman having been obtained at the present rate of pay, Groves has been working the hammer as forgeman since the transfer of Meager to Halifax Yard, up to the 3d ultimo (April), when the hammer was partially discontinued, from the state of the furnaces." The next is a letter dated "Admiralty, 21st May, 1852. To the Captain Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard. In return to your letters of the 10th and 14th instant, respecting the vacancy for a forgeman in Chatham Dockyard, my Lords direct me to acquaint you, that as it appears by the report of the officers of the yard, made to you on the 8th instant, that they have since September last failed in their endeavours to obtain an expert forgeman from the private trade, for the rate of pay allowed to such officers in Her Majesty's dockyards; and that none who have offered themselves were such good workmen as William Groves, who is represented to be a 'young and improving man,' and it further appearing by your letter of the 14th instant, and the report of the officers therein enclosed, that William Groves has been performing the duty of forgeman since the transfer of George Meagher to Halifax (he being the next best calculated of the men in the smithery for the performance of such duty), my Lords are pleased, upon a full consideration of the case, to promote William Groves to the present vacancy for forgeman in Chatham Dockyard. By command of their Lordships,

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Lordships, *W. A. B. Hamilton.*" I should now observe to the Committee, that between the period of my representation on the 10th and the letter of the 21st, appointing this man, it so happened that a man in all respects eligible, had presented himself in the yard, and acting under the order that I had received in October in the previous year, I directed the man to be entered, and I did so because I knew him to be a very superior workman.

2070. When did he present himself?—Between the time of their Lordships' opening this correspondence, or rather, between the time of my letter representing my opinion of Groves' unfitness and the time of his appointment; in fact, their Lordships appointed him by letter of the 21st. I received that appointment on the 23d. On the 19th I had entered the man under their Lordships' order of October preceding, which I considered had never been suspended; therefore, when I received this letter appointing Groves, there was, in point of fact, no longer a vacancy, and I wrote to tell the Board so, in the following terms: "Chatham Yard, 23d May 1852. Sir,—With reference to their Lordships' directions of the 21st instant, for the promotion of William Groves to the vacancy for forgeman in Chatham Dockyard, I have the honour to inform their Lordships, that acting under their instructions of the 6th October 1851, to enter a forgeman from private trade, Matthew Fowler, the forgeman who worked the new forge so satisfactorily on the recent experimental trial, having offered himself on the 19th instant, and believing him to be a thoroughly expert and well skilled workman, I caused him to be entered as forgeman. I have now, therefore, to request their Lordships' instructions, as to whether, under all the circumstances of the case, Matthew Fowler is to be discharged, or William Groves is still to remain in his present position as furnace-man. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, *Peter Richards*, Captain Superintendent." To which I received in reply the following letter, "Admiralty, 24th May 1852. Captain Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard,—Having laid before my Lords your letter of the 23d instant, No. 81, reporting that you had entered in the vacancy for a forgeman in Chatham Yard, a man from private trade, named Matthew Fowler, and requesting instructions in this case, in consequence of William Groves, furnace-man, having been in the meantime appointed to this situation by their Lordships, they direct me to acquaint you that they cannot but express their surprise that you should have filled up a vacancy, which has remained open since September last, at the very time when the subject was under their consideration. My Lords desire that you will cause their Lordships' order of the 21st instant, to be carried into immediate execution. By command of their Lordships, *Augustus Stafford.*" Upon the receipt of that letter I had no alternative; Fowler was obliged to be discharged, and Groves rose to the vacancy.

2071. Under the order of October 1851, did you suppose that you were authorised to appoint a forgeman?—Certainly.

2072. Without reference to the Surveyor and to the Admiralty?—Certainly; the order will speak for itself. It says that I was to take the necessary measures to carry their directions into effect; of course every man who is entered from without is entered under probation. It is understood, that if after 14 days he is not found to answer the expectations, he goes out of the yard without the slightest ceremony, the officer represents to me his unfitness, and I order him to be discharged immediately.

2073. You had been for some months unable to find a good man who would come in for those wages?—Quite so.

2074. What are wages of a forgeman?—His wages are 8*s.* a day.

2075. From October up to April, you had not found a good man?—No, certainly not.

2076. How did you find Mathew Fowler?—He came into the yard, and offered himself.

2077. Did you know anything as to where he came from?—He came from London; he worked in London. I should say that he had previously worked in the yard. The Board of Admiralty, in the early part of the year 1852, ordered an experimental working in the new forge that had been erected previous to that year; and that was done to carry out the suggestion of the chief engineer, who submitted to me to point out to their Lordships that he thought great economy would result from working up scrap iron by task-work instead of by day; and he submitted, to speak in round figures, that that which cost 60*s.* in the smithery would cost less than 40*s.* if it were done under a system of task-work; and the Admiralty at last sanctioned

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tioned the experiment; and then Matthew Fowler was the man with whom the contract was entered into; he came in, and I think, in round quantities, there were about 500 tons of old scrap iron which were worked up into what are called "blooms," for the purpose of rolling; and it was done in such a way that the Board expressed their satisfaction at the result of the experiment. Fowler clearly had a skill far surpassing anything that we had in the yard; and the Committee will understand how far that skill did surpass anything we had, when I tell them that while our men never turned out more than from 10 to 12 tons of iron from their forges from under the hammer in a week, Fowler had turned out never less than 32, and at one time he had gone as far as 42, and that working at task-work, so profitable to the Government; and, instead of earning 8*s.* by the day, he was earning nearly 15*s.*; therefore when such a man came in and offered himself, I own that I was perfectly astonished, and could not think what could induce such a man to come and offer himself; but he did, and I felt that it was an advantage that was not to be neglected, and I should have considered that I was failing in my duty if I had said "No, I must wait a little." I felt that I had the authority, and I must say, and I say it with all respect to my superiors, that I could not understand, after my letter so strongly intimating my opinion that Groves was not a fit man, and that upon a general principle his promotion would be prejudicial to the service, that the Board would give themselves any further trouble. I thought the letter conclusive, that the road was fairly open to me, and I entered this man; their Lordships, it appears, were displeased at it, and all I could do was to submit.

2078. If I understand you rightly, there were, in your opinion, two advantages in obtaining the services of Fowler: first, that you had a superior workman, and next, that you could employ the system of task-work?—Yes. We could have employed him upon the system of task-work, but that must be done only with the approval of the Board; I have no authority to do that without the permission of the Board. My opinion of the great advantages to be derived from such a man as Fowler, and the officers whom I consulted were of the same opinion, was this, that it would improve our men in the smithery generally, who were very much behind; we have not the latest improvements; we are far behind the private trade, I am sorry to say, in the manufacture of iron; and I was therefore so desirous of getting a man from the private trade. My belief is, as expressed by the officers, that Groves is a young and improving man, and would, under such a man as Fowler, have soon attained an improved condition and a degree of skill, that would have made him a useful man to us. I do not think that Fowler would have remained permanently, for unless he came with the expectation of rising to be an officer, I could not understand it; certainly not as a money question. He must have had some other motive. My idea is, that we should have kept Fowler long enough, to make a good man of Groves; and I think, not only that the service, but that Groves has sustained a serious injury by his promotion.

2079. Is it not the practice in the dockyards to employ task-work in all cases where task-work can be employed with advantage?—It is not the practice; it is considered, I believe, by the authorities, that task-work is expensive, except in very urgent cases, as it is supposed, particularly in the shipwrights' department, to lead to the destruction of materials.

2080. The objection was stated to be the waste of materials?—Yes.

2081. But in such labour as the working up of old iron, could not task-work be used with advantage?—I have no doubt of it; at the same time, it is very difficult in a smithery; the work is mixed, and it is difficult to put one part upon task-work except you do the whole.

2082. Have you in any case resorted to the private trade for employment in the yard, either at Chatham or Pembroke?—No, except in the cases that have been brought before this Committee.

2083. Have you not tried any persons from the private trade?—No, except this man, Fowler.

2084. From the advantage that you had seen in the trial of Nasmyth's hammer early in 1852, you thought it very desirable to take advantage of the superior skill of persons in the private trade?—It was impossible to be blind to their superiority, and therefore it would have been very improper in me not to make the recommendation I did: it was the difference between a man being able to earn 15*s.* a day and only earning 8*s.* We had worked our men, with the Board's permission, to show that this was owing to want of skill, in the smithery, on task-work, on this very

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very work, and they had scarcely ever been able to earn more than their day pay; indeed, sometimes they had even fallen short of it, but they had never exceeded it by more than 6*d.* or 9*d.*

2085. Did you consider that the circular of 1847, while it offered great advantages to workmen who should distinguish themselves by their industry, limited promotion to the men in the yard, or did it admit persons from the private trade to be taken in?—There is no mention of such a thing in the circular; but I cannot understand that the public service can ever tie itself to take a man because he is the best man you have, he not being properly qualified. Certainly, you must get the best qualified men from wherever you can; and if the yards do not furnish them, you must find them elsewhere, if you can. I take it that that must be laid down as a principle in the public service.

2086. Do you remember Edward Atkinson being promoted?—Perfectly well.

2087. Will you state when that occurred?—It occurred I know in the month of August, the 18th of August 1852, and that is impressed upon my recollection, because, after Atkinson's case, I had a conversation with Admiral Hyde Parker, in which I referred to the last letter from the Board, which has been read, expressing their surprise at the course of conduct I had adopted. It was expressly stated that my letter had been laid before the Board, and the Secretary was commanded to convey to me their Lordships' surprise at my proceedings. When I saw Admiral Parker in August, I said that I had received what I considered little short of a rebuke from the Board, as to my conduct, and his answer was, "A rebuke, for what; it is the first I have heard of it."

2088. When you speak of having received a rebuke, to which case do you refer?—To the case of Groves, in which their Lordships expressed their surprise at the line of conduct I had adopted; therefore, in Atkinson's case, I went to Admiral Parker, and there were several other cases that I went into with him, and that fixes the date of one of the conversations I had with him. I distinctly recollect two, and there may have been more. It is necessary that I should read some letters before I come to Atkinson's case, because those letters show that no hammer-man in the smithery was qualified to be a fireman. There was a vacancy, and I had called upon the officers, and they told me that there was no man properly qualified. That arose out of the entry of a man called John Butler, as a smith, at the expiration of his term of apprenticeship. "Chatham Yard, 22d April 1851. Sir,—I have the honour to transmit for their Lordships' consideration, a letter from the shipwright officers, recommending John Butler, smith's apprentice, whose term of apprenticeship has expired, for entry as a hammer-man, evidently the only position for which he is eligible. The reply of the officers to my reference, on their first recommendation, shows it to be doubtful if a man can be found among the hammer-men absolutely qualified for single firemen; and it is my duty to observe, that of the three men named for that station, I cannot say recommended, two were bred as apprentices in this yard, viz. Alfred Dicks and John Flinn, and have since served, the first four years and a quarter, and the second three years and a half, as hammer-men; which affords but a faint prospect of even single firemen being furnished by the yard apprentices." These are the certificates of John Butler: "Sir,—We beg leave to transmit herewith the general certificate of John Butler, whose apprenticeship to a smith has expired, and, on the back thereof, the schoolmaster's certificate of his conduct, &c. at the school, and to recommend him for entry in the yard as a smith." Now I observe, "The officers are to report fully upon the degree of proficiency attained in his trade by the within, and for what particular class of 'smith' they consider him qualified, and recommend that he should be entered in. They are also to report, in the event of his being qualified for a fireman, whether any of the hammer-men, bred as smiths, are better qualified than Butler for the existing vacancy of single fireman." That is signed by me. The report of the officers is as follows: "Chatham Yard, 21st April 1851. The degree of proficiency attained by John Butler as a smith entitles him to the classification of a 'middling workman.'" I should observe that the term "middling," in dockyard phraseology, is something very moderate indeed. "And he can at present only be recommended for entry as a hammer-man. There are others, bred as smiths, who are somewhat better qualified for single firemen, and have been out of their time some few years, to whom a preference may be given, viz. Alexander Long, Alfred Dicks, John Flinn." That is signed by the shipwright officers; and that going to the Board, I assume that the Board knew that. I did not consider, in point of fact, there was any

man

man fairly qualified to be a fireman. "Extract from their Lordships' Order of the 18th August 1852, for the Promotions and Appointments of Workmen therein mentioned to take place. Edward Atkinson, hammer-man, in the smithery, to be single fireman." Capt. *P. Richards*, R. N. 5 May 1853.

2089. Did you distinctly report, in sending up the submissions of the officers, upon Atkinson?—No, not upon Atkinson; simply that there was no hammer-man, and the officers' opinion putting forward persons, of whom I observed that they were named for the station, for I could not say they were recommended. It is evident that the officers advanced an opinion by which they could not abide: for when I called upon them, they receded, and admitted that the man was not fit; I assumed that there was no man fit.

2090. You merely sent up that submission?—Yes, it went up; Atkinson's name was never introduced, and no one in the yard had the slightest idea that Atkinson could be ever brought forward for promotion. Without any question asked, in August I received the order for his promotion. On the 2d of October I reported on his ineligibility. He was appointed the 18th August. The view I took of it was, after much consideration, that as he had been promoted without the recommendation of any officer in the yard, the best view I could take of it was, to consider him as a newly entered man, and as subject to probation. The usual probation is fourteen days; but that I might not seem to bear hard upon a case which evidently had their Lordships' particular favour, I gave him a much longer time. The Committee will see by the paper, the length of time that was allowed. "Chatham Yard, 2d October 1852. Sir,—With reference to their Lordships' directions of the 18th of August last, for the advancement of Edward Atkinson, hammer-man, to be single fireman, which were carried into effect on the 20th of that month, I have the honour to enclose a report from the officers, by which their Lordships' will perceive, that after a probatiion already far exceeding the rule of 14 days, as prescribed by their Lordships, the man is not considered eligible for single fireman. Under these circumstances, and considering it beyond my duty to permit the extended probationary period of three months on the probability stated by the officers, I request their Lordships' will be pleased to signify their further pleasure with respect to this man." The enclosures are to this effect, from the officers to myself. "Chatham-yard, Sept. 21, 1852. Sir,—In obedience to your minute of the 19th instant, we beg to report that Edward Atkinson, who is under probation as a single fireman of smiths, is a middling workman. He is a diligent man, and improving." On the 26th of September there is a minute from myself. "The report of the officers on Edward Atkinson, single fireman, is not satisfactory, inasmuch as it leaves the fitness or unfitness of the man for his present situation, in doubt. Justice to the man and to the service demand that his qualifications be fairly stated, which is to be done in this and in all future cases;" that is signed by me. Then, the next is the 29th of September. "The qualifications of Edward Atkinson are such as not at present to render him eligible for a single fireman, but as his immediate officers report him to be a diligent man, and his having been out of practice for upwards of 11 years, we consider, that after three months longer charge of a fire, he may be capable of producing a sufficient quantity of work." Here is a minute from the master smith, which I find amongst these papers, under the date of the 20th of September, 1852. It is sent to the master shipwright, and he says, "Sir,—I beg to report that Edward Atkinson has been under probation as a fireman three weeks, is a diligent and middling workman, and likely to become useful." (signed) "*George Cotsell.*" The answer to that is dated "Admiralty, 4 October 1852. The Captain Superintendent, Chatham Dockyard. With reference to your letter of the 2d instant, No. 148, and its enclosure respecting Edward Atkinson, who is on probation for advancement to single fireman; as this man is reported to be a diligent and improving man, the extended probationary period is to be allowed him. By command of their Lordships. *J. H. Hay*, pro-secretary." In consequence, the correspondence on that man ceased till the 1st of February of this year.

2091. Why does it happen that in the case of Atkinson there are such frequent reports, when in the case of Ridgeway you had made no frequent reports?—I cannot give the Committee any other reason for it than that Atkinson's case in the smithery appeared to be more susceptible of proof in that way; with respect to Ridgeway, I never called for any public report upon him.

2092. But you considered that Atkinson was ineligible for his situation, and you

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you had frequent reports of the progress he made, for your own satisfaction?—Quite so.

2093. Ridgeway you considered equally ineligible for his situation, but, in his case, you did not have any reports?—I did not; in truth, when I found such a positive point made as to Ridgeway, I thought it was better to let the case go on, and let it find its own level. I shall have an opportunity of stating to this Committee, before I close my evidence, that I had intended (and it was not altogether left as a dead-letter) to bring the whole of those circumstances under the notice of the Board, at a suitable opportunity. I may as well say now, that after the letters as to Groves, I made up my mind, that whenever the Board of Admiralty visited Chatham Yard, I would bring the whole of those cases formally before the Board, when I should have an opportunity of being heard verbally, as well as by letter; and that is the reason why I adopted the course which I did. I felt, I have no difficulty in saying, hurt at the letter that had been written to me. If I were to consider it as the act of the Board, my usefulness would be pretty nearly at an end; and if I considered it in any other light, it was high time the Board should know and consider what was to be done, especially after Admiral Parker telling me, in August, that he knew nothing about it. The summer visitation was expected, and I made up my mind to bring the whole matter before the Board when they visited the Chatham Yard; that visit was never performed, therefore I never had an opportunity of doing so.

2094. Will you state whether Atkinson took any part in politics?—Not that I know of.

2095. You are not aware whether he voted?—No; I never did inquire. I have, since, been told, but at that time, I declare upon my honour that I knew nothing whatever about it; but, within the last few weeks, I have been told that he voted for Sir Frederic Smith; it is only hearsay. The poll-books, of course, will show how that is.

2096. Sir *B. Hall.*] Does he live in Skinner-street?—I do not know. The other letters are merely the sequel of Atkinson, and I produce them to prove that the three months probation ended just as the three weeks had. "Chatham Yard, 1st February 1853. Sir,—With reference to their Lordships' directions for the advancement of Edward Atkinson, hammer-man, to be single fireman, dated the 18th of August 1852, and to my letter of the 2d of October following, reporting his ineligibility; and again, to their Lordships' further directions for extended probation to this man, dated the 4th of the same month; I have now the honour to transmit a report from the officers on the expiration of the intended probation granted to this man, by which their Lordships will perceive that he is not capable of taking charge of a fire as single fireman; I have, therefore, to request their Lordships instructions concerning him." This is signed by me. And the report of the officers is as follows: "Chatham Yard, January 3d, 1853. Sir,—In reference to your directions of the 7th October last, for Edward Atkinson, a smith, to be placed on probation as a single fireman for three months, we beg to report, that Atkinson has certainly much improved during his probation, he has been very attentive and industrious, and may be considered a middling workman; but he has not attained that degree of skill which will enable him to take the higher and general work which is now required of those promoted to the charge of a fire; we do not, therefore, recommend him for a single fireman." The answer of the Admiralty is: "In return to your letter of the 1st instant, No. 14, representing that, after a prolonged probation, Edward Atkinson is not found to be qualified for the situation of single fireman; my Lords desire that he should return to his former position as hammer-man, and you are to recommend the man who may be, in every respect, best qualified and most deserving to fill the situation of single fireman."

2097. You stated, did you not, that there was no man fit?—Their Lordships called upon me to report; and I will show the Committee how much good has resulted from denying to men advancement without being fully qualified. This very lad, Butler, who was declared incapable by the officers at the time he came out of his apprenticeship, has since, after the lapse of 12 months or nearly, so qualified himself that I have been able to recommend him; he was tried against another man, and proved the best man; he has since been recommended and promoted.

2098. When you say tried, in what way do you mean?—The officers try them by a certain amount of work. They give them a certain amount of work, and they test the quantity, I presume as well as the quality, and this lad Butler, who is a very

very fine young man, has improved himself. My own opinion is, that if he had been made smith when he came out of his time, he would have remained throughout his life what is called a middling workman, good for little or nothing; but being put to be hammer-man, he found it necessary to put his shoulder to the wheel, he became convinced that he could not be promoted without merit, and he qualified himself. Capt. *P. Richards*, R.N. 5 May 1853.

2099. It has been stated to the Committee at Question 1401, that one or two cases brought forward may seem a good many; but they are not so to be viewed, if it should appear that there are a considerable number of other cases in which Captain Richards's suggestions were entirely attended to. Were there many cases during the year 1852 in which your suggestions as to promotions were entirely attended to?—Yes. Certainly in the great majority, there is no doubt about it. The rule to a certain extent was followed. These are exceptions to the rule; I have not before me the papers, but I should say at once that there are six or seven, or even ten to one, there is no doubt about that.

2100. Cases in which your recommendations were attended to?—Yes, no doubt about it.

2101. Respecting the case of a yard labourer, George Rule, promoted to be a workman at the metal mills; do you recollect that case?—I do recollect it very well; I find he was appointed on the 6th of November 1852, to be a 6th class workman at the metal mills. I had recommended William Bacon, a first class boy at the metal mills, for that position, and George Rule's name was never mentioned by me at all.

2102. What were the three names that the officers sent to you?—I have not the report of the officers before me, but I have a perfect recollection; indeed I have it before me that Bacon had been recommended on the 1st of October for the same situation, and then another man was appointed. I repeated the recommendation again on the 1st of November, and George Rule was appointed. Now it may possibly be, in this case, that there may not have been three names, because Bacon was perhaps the only lad fairly eligible. With respect to the metal mills, when they were founded, the Admiralty desired that the men should begin there, and, in fact, that they should be taken from among the labourers in the yard, to work their way up through the various classes; but the chief engineer complained to me, that by taking in men of 22 or 23 years of age, their habits were formed, and they never got beyond a certain point; and he recommended me to take lads of 18 or 19 or 20, and people who had been accustomed to metal work. This Bacon was a lad employed in the nail shop, in castings; and it is an encouragement to those boys to be brought forward in this way, as well as a benefit to the public service. If the original letters are gone into, I shall be glad to send them to the Committee, that Bacon's name may be found to stand alone, because the rule to submit three names did not apply; it could not be observed.

2103. Have you had any report upon Rule since he has been appointed?—No; it is not customary. Those people begin, in point of fact, to learn their trade, and a man, if he never gets better, never rises beyond the sixth class. The workmen are all graduated in six classes, running from 6*s.* a day to 2*s.* 9*d.*, the 9*d.* is given in addition to the common labourer. If he gets into the sixth class, and proves himself fit for nothing better, he is never promoted; therefore, as to probation in the mills, the rule does not apply.

2104. Because you say, unless he is a good workman, he will not rise any higher?—No; he remains in the sixth class; that is, 2*s.* 9*d.*

2105. It is a small advantage to a labourer to put him into the sixth class, unless he is so far qualified as to rise?—It is 9*d.* per day.

2106. Instead of what?—He gets 2*s.* 9*d.* instead of 2*s.* a day. The labourers are paid 12*s.* a week; 2*s.* a day for six days; and these men have 2*s.* 9*d.* a day for six days equally. I should state that I understand, for I have inquired of the chief engineer, that Rule is represented as a tolerable sort of a man; not a man that we would remark upon as either very good or very bad.

2107. Do you know how Rule obtained this promotion?—Not at all.

2108. Lord *Hotham.*] Was he a voter?—I do not know.

2109. Do you know whether his family belong to Chatham?—I think I have been told that his father keeps a public-house there. One hears so many things that are not borne out by fact, that I am reluctant to say anything about a man.

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2110. *Chairman.*] Do you remember the case of Henry Bush, a labourer, who was promoted?—Yes; I have his case before me.

2111. Will you state what that case was?—It appears that on the 1st of November an entry of a third-class workman at the sawmills was submitted for their Lordships' consideration; two men's names, Robert Rix or Horace Parnell; Henry Bush, an ordinary labourer, was appointed.

2112. You submitted Rix and Parnell?—Yes. Those two men were reduced sawyers when the establishments of the yards were reduced consequent upon the visit of the Committee in the early part of 1849: in March there followed a reduction of the workmen in the yards, and the sawyers who were reduced had the option either of being discharged, or of what is called falling back to labourers; and those who fell back to labourers were promised that, as vacancies arose, no new sawyers should be entered, but that they should rise again to their places. That rule has been observed, and in all cases I have recommended that reduced sawyers should return to those places. The situation at the sawmills is not quite so good as being a sawyer; but when some of the men made application to me, I told them that they might stand for which they pleased; they might either take their turns to be workmen at the sawmills, or they might take their turns for vacancies at the pits, if they could be held to be best for either place. This man Rix chose to put himself for the mills, and I considered that he was entitled to that; I recommended him; and the other man was added; a very good man; but my intention was, that Rix should be promoted to the sawmills; Bush was appointed. The only observation I have to make about Bush is, that he had only been in the yard 11 weeks at the time of his promotion.

2113. How long had those men, Rix and Parnell, been there?—Very many years; they were reduced from sawyers in 1849; but it is fair to say that Bush is reported to me to be a very willing and a very diligent man.

2114. Did you consider that the preference of Bush over Rix and Parnell was contrary to the circular of 1847?—Most decidedly.

2115. So far you objected to it, as interfering with the system which you believed to be good for the service?—I offered no observation, because at that time I felt, after what had occurred in the cases of other people, over and over again, that remonstrance on my part would be of no avail; perhaps even that it was rather showing an opposition to the Board of Admiralty, which I did not wish to do; but the promotion of Bush, according to my view of the case, was a very great act of injustice to the reduced sawyers; and, indeed, I may say, that if the reduced sawyers had been absorbed, I should have preferred going to the labourers of longer standing, rather than taking a man who had only been 11 weeks in the yard.

2116. Was there not another labourer, Thomas Charrison?—Yes, I have his case before me. He had the preference over that lad, Bacon, on the previous month to the appointment of Rule, in October.

2117. Was that a case that was contrary to the circular of 1847?—Decidedly; it was a promotion without my recommendation, and without my being in anyway consulted; because, if I had been asked the question about Charrison, I should have decidedly opposed his promotion, because he had been before me for idling, as a labourer, and was within an ace of being dismissed from the service for it.

2118. He had not been mentioned by the officers?—No; at present he is in the metal mills; he is in that class which I have endeavoured to describe.

2119. When he was promoted from being a yard labourer to the sixth class, was he then mentioned by the officers, though he was not mentioned by you?—Certainly not; that is, unless any officer did it privately.

2120. But by any public notice to you?—No; the only person I had selected for that vacancy was William Bacon, a first-class boy.

2121. Was there the case of a man of the name of Valley, who was promoted to be rigger?—Yes.

2122. Was he recommended by the superintendent?—He was not; the men I recommended were, Henry Best or Thomas Evans.

2123. When did that occur?—Valley's appointment came down on the 6th of November; I recommended Best and Evans on the 1st of November.

2124. Was there a man of the name of Ethell promoted, without being recommended by the superintendent and the officers?—Yes; the case of Ethell is a somewhat singular one. When there was a first-class boy wanted at the metal mills, I had three names of boys sent in to me by the officers; they were, Josiah Godding,

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Godding, Alexander Gifford, and Samuel Ethell. The reason of these boys being recommended by the officers was, that when we worked the new forge, we gave these boys to the job-men; they were paid out of the men's wages, but in order to insure the men getting fair support from the boys, they were told, if they behaved themselves well, they should be promoted whenever there was an opportunity. Therefore, when vacancies fell out in the mills, I desired that the boys, if they had conducted themselves well, which I understood they had, should be brought to me in the order of their merit, and they were so brought to me, Ethell's name being the last on the chief engineer's list. Therefore, upon the principle of dropping the third name, and sending on two, I dropped Ethell's name, and sent on the names of Godding and Gifford as being the two boys best qualified, Godding the best; but Ethell was promoted. The Board could not have known the fact by direct means, that Ethell's name had been brought before me at all. I did not send on the officer's letter; I sent on my own, with the names taken from the officer's letter.

2125. Was there a man by the name of Page promoted?—I have not his name here, therefore I cannot speak of the dates. I remember the case very well; he was a boy raised to be a labourer; I did not recommend him.

2126. Was that a case in which your recommendation usually, according to the circular of 1847, would have gone forward?—Yes, certainly, because it is promotion. I had been in the habit, with the view to encourage boys to good conduct, to recommend them to the Board when any of them grew nearly to be men, that the most eligible should be raised to labourers. That has been so in every case, in fact; Page was not recommended by me; I do not think that I should have recommended him.

2127. Is there any other case of the kind that you think it desirable to bring under the notice of the Committee?—No, I have nothing immediately before me. There have been two or three cases in which the second man has been chosen, instead of the first, which I mentioned to Admiral Parker at the Admiralty. My letter usually ran, I recommend so and so, or so and so; observing to their Lordships that I placed the men in the order of their merits, and when I said that to Admiral Parker, he said, "I do not think you have any right to complain of that;" and hearing from such high authority that I had no right to complain, I ceased to make any observations upon it.

2128. When you send up a statement of the merits of two men, do you also send their ages?—No, it is not usual. We do so in the cases of men to be promoted to leading men, or from leading men to inspectors, then the whole particulars are gone into. There is a scholastic examination, and a great deal reported; but it would make those returns so very voluminous if we entered into the particulars of every man in this way; in fact, it has not been usual to do it. It is presumed that the superintendent selects the best men, and the Board nominate accordingly; but if two names are submitted, it must be competent to them to whom they are submitted, to choose which of the two they please. When the officers submit three names, I can reject which I please.

2129. When you receive three names, you reject one. Suppose the men to be promoted are pretty nearly equal in point of merit, but one is considerably younger than the other, as far as the public service is concerned, it would be for the advantage of it to employ the younger man?—No doubt about it.

2130. Therefore, looking to the economy, and to the efficiency of the public service, the age of the person is an element to be considered?—Decidedly.

2131. Should you, in considering the case of three men, take that into account?—That would depend very much upon the appointment; for instance, I have had cases lately under my notice, and I have decided in this way: in the ropery, if a second class workman is to be promoted to the first class, I give the preference to the oldest servant; because the first class gives him no more work, and no more responsibility; it is an additional 6*d.* a day to which I think he is best entitled, by long servitude. If I am to select a man for leading man, I look to that man passing through the gradations, from leading man to layer, and from layer to foreman, and from foreman to master; and I prefer taking a man at 26 or 30 years of age, rather than one past 50; because, if I make a man past 50 to be leading man, he never can go any further, and all our future officers would be old worn-out men. Therefore, in those cases I have given the preference to younger men; but in other cases, I should give a preference to the older servant.

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2132. As you consider the age of the different individuals an important element in some cases of promotion, would it not, as a general principle, be better that the Surveyor of the Navy, when he gets the report, and the Lords of the Admiralty, when they get the report, should have some means of forming an opinion between two individuals?—That could be very easily done; it certainly would assist very much, and I should make no kind of objection. My desire is to place before the Surveyor and the Board, every information of which I am in possession.

2133. In December, was there the case of some boys that were examined for shipwrights' apprentices?—There was a shipwright apprentice entered in the middle of the year. I have not the exact date, but a boy named Eldridge was entered as an apprentice in the middle of the year. The Board had given an order in November 1851 (I speak from recollection), that in consequence of the number of apprentices and the number of shipwrights, there would be no entry for apprentices during the year 1852; but in the early part of the year, about March or April, one of the apprentices, from some cause, was discharged, and about June or July an order was given for the entry of this boy, George Eldridge. It was an unusual thing to enter a boy in that way, in the middle of the year, and therefore I noticed it; but the boy was a very good lad, and in all respects eligible.

2134. Did he go through the usual competition with other candidates?—No; it was an absolute examination; there was only him. He was to be examined, and entered if found fit. And as to being found fit, if a boy can read and write, and go through the first rules of arithmetic, he is considered fit. When there is a competition, it is very different, because then the boys who desire to go beyond that, are examined up to their qualifications, and they have credit accordingly.

2135. In a case where there are several competitors, you select the best, do you not?—Decidedly. I think, on former examinations, we have had more than 40 boys where there was less than one-fourth part of the number to be entered; therefore, you get an excellent choice.

2136. Has that been the usual course?—Always; it was done at Pembroke in 1849, and at Chatham in the years 1850 and 1851. In the year 1849 I was at Pembroke; at the entry of 1850 and 1851 I was at Chatham. In 1852 there was no entry.

2137. When is the period of entry?—Always in January; there is an order to that effect in the order of 1847, and it specially provides that entry shall take place in January.

2138. If it had been determined in November that there should be no apprentices entered in 1852, that would prevent any being entered during that January?—Yes; there were none entered.

2139. Then none being entered in January, it was very unusual to enter them until the January following?—Quite so; it is therefore that I noticed it, because otherwise the entry of the boy, if it was a customary thing, would never leave any impression upon a man's mind.

2140. Is there any particular advantage in having the examinations in winter, and entering them in January?—None, as to the season of the year, but in the annual examination there is an advantage: it is looked upon as a kind of privilege, on the part of the old artificers, to get their sons into the yard, lads from 14 to 15 years of age. No boy can be entered after 15, therefore, the men who wish to bring their boys forward, train them to be examined in January; and if they by any chance miss that, it is a very great misfortune, because they cannot come in the next year, they are over age. Therefore it was a serious loss to the workmen that there was no examination in January; but the service did not require apprentices, therefore the Board could not feel themselves justified in ordering an entry.

2141. There were no vacancies for apprentices in January?—I cannot say whether there were any vacancies for apprentices, but I understood it to be that the yards generally were full. I know we were overcharged with shipwrights; we had more than we could provide for; we had a supernumerary list.

2142. Was there a supernumerary list in January 1852?—Certainly.

2143. Have you a supernumerary list now?—No, they are all worked off; we have had large superannuations this winter, of broken-down men, many of our old men.

2144. The number of apprentices you enter in January, I suppose, depends upon the number of vacancies?—I suppose so. We receive our orders in that way; it is decided between the Surveyor and the Board.

2145. How

2145. How many are to be entered in each yard?—Yes; Chatham Dockyard may be short, and other dockyards may be over-supplied. Capt. *P. Richards*, R. N. 5 May 1853.

2146. That requires a knowledge of the general yards, which can only be in the Surveyor or the Board of Admiralty?—Yes. But this single boy was entered about the middle of the year. In December, the Board of Admiralty sent down the names of seven apprentices to be examined, and if found fit to be entered in seven vacancies; the number was fixed exactly at that, and subsequently four other names were sent. George Eldridge's entry has no date to it; but on the 17th of December 1852, their Lordships notified that the entry for apprentices for 1853 would be limited to seven, and that the names of the boys would be sent down. Before the year 1852, I should say that the practice had been, towards the latter part of the year, to make up a list of the names in the master shipwright's office; and I always gave permission for the names of boys, the sons of deserving men, to be put on that list; and from time to time we received orders to put on the list certain boys as candidates for shipwrights' apprentices; and when January came, the whole of the boys were sent to the school, and examined in the presence of myself, the master shipwright, the chaplain, and the schoolmaster, and then their qualifications were all sent up; their ages, their acquirements, whatever they might be, their parentage, and the servitude of the parents; and usually the Board have drawn a line at the bottom of the first seven, or eight, or nine, or ten, and they have sent down the list, and desired that those boys should be entered as apprentices. Therefore, the Admiralty limiting the entry to the names of the boys to be sent, I did not feel myself justified in opening any such list; I had no power to do it. Therefore the men were thrown out. Those people who had trained their sons in the hope of getting them in, were entirely thrown out. I could do nothing for them; they complained very much, but it was out of my reach.

2147. That was this last January?—Yes. On the 21st of December, seven names were sent, with orders for their examination, and entry, if found fit.

2148. Where were those names sent from?—From the Board of Admiralty. On the 24th of December four additional names were sent, in case any of those already ordered should be found unfit, making in the whole, 11 for seven vacancies; and the result appears to have been, that out of the 11, 10 only appeared; five were found qualified, and were entered; two could neither read nor write; one could only spell and write indifferently; one was above the age, and one was found unfit by the surgeon. The five that were qualified were entered, and the two remaining vacancies were not filled. The Board of Admiralty having changed, I did not think it proper to make any representations at all upon what had occurred.

2149. That was a hardship upon the workmen of the yard, was it not?—No doubt of it.

2150. Whose sons would otherwise have had a chance of becoming shipwrights' apprentices?—Undoubtedly.

2151. You stated, did you not, that you had no doubt, with regard to the recommendations of the officers of the yard, that those recommendations which you sent on, were made without any reference to political motives?—I firmly believe it.

2152. While you submitted your recommendations through the office of the Surveyor of the Navy, acquitting the Surveyor of the Navy himself of all political motives, did it ever seem to you that there was any sort of political influence used by persons in his office?—Certainly not; invariably every man was promoted in the order in which he stood on my list. I cannot remember any exception. I think I should recollect it if any had ever occurred; I had no reason, in fact to find fault, I could not possibly find fault in any way with the mode in which the promotions were distributed; it was exactly what I recommended.

2153. Have you a certain number of men fixed as the establishment at Chatham?—Yes.

2154. What is the number?—The number on the establishment is 1,604 men.

2155. Can you state what was your number in January 1852?—No, I cannot, without a reference to the documents; but a few men under.

2156. You were somewhat under your establishment in January 1852?—Yes, we are almost always under; we cannot go above it; there are a number of vacancies by death, superannuation, and idle people who discharge themselves by

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absenting from their duty, and that always keeps us below. There is a saving in the yard of wages, for the Vote, is, of course, made up according to the scale of wages for the full number, which amounts to 3,000*l.* or 4,000*l.* a year upon the wages. I state this in order to show that we are constantly under the establishment, but how many I cannot say; but there is a list sent in every month to the Surveyor's office, of the numbers borne in the yard.

2157. Then besides that, there are what are called extra men?—Yes; the extra men are of course in addition to the establishment; we have extra ropemakers.

2158. Can you state how your establishment has been as to extra men?—Always under.

2159. Have you a fixed allowance for extra men?—Yes.

2160. What is your fixed number for extra men?—In the ropery, I can tell the Committee. There are 60 ropemakers, the office term is spinners, 19 or 20 labourers, and 24 or 25 boys.

2161. Taking 1,600 men as the establishment of the yard, you cannot state generally how many extra men there are?—No; but we have very few extra men. We have an establishment, in fact, of seamen riggers, and those men (we could not keep up our number some time ago) had been appointed instead of labourers, and I submitted to the Admiralty, when the seamen riggers were short, that I should be allowed to enter extra men as labourers instead of the number short of seamen riggers; which the Board acquiesced in; but if the seamen come in, the labourers must be discharged. Then in the year 1852, we had a survey in the yard, the triennial survey, and extra men were entered for it, and discharged as soon as it was concluded; I cannot say exactly how many there were, but I should think it would not exceed 40 men entered for that special object.

2162. Can you give the Committee any idea of the whole number of extra men?—The extra men that are always borne are merely those in the ropeyard; we have no other extra men that I can immediately recollect except when there are shipwrights in excess of the establishment, and when apprentices are out of their time, they are transferred to the extra list. That list depends entirely upon the number of apprentices out of their time. There is no fixed number, they go on to the list of shipwrights as vacancies arise.

2163. Have you many apprentices who are out of their time?—We have had a great many that came out in April; thirteen.

2164. In April of this year?—Yes.

2165. Had you many in April 1852?—I cannot say. We were then in excess, I know, in the number of shipwrights.

2166. Are you now in excess?—Not at this moment; the number of superannuations this spring have made room. I think that now we are 16 apprentices short of our establishment.

2167. Who appoints the extra men?—Sometimes the names are sent down by the Board, and sometimes they are entered by myself; that is, by the officers under my orders. I make it a rule to see every man that is entered in the yard.

2168. Before entering a man, should you send up a report that there was a vacancy for an extra man?—No; under either a particular order, or under a general order, it is open to me to enter men, and I enter them; but unless I have permission I cannot, I have no power.

2169. Have you had a general order to enter extra men?—No.

2170. Then usually you would report that there was a vacancy for extra men?—It is always reported monthly.

2171. Your report would show whether or not there was a vacancy for extra men?—Yes.

2172. Do you, when you have so reported, receive an order from the Admiralty to fill up the vacancies yourself?—Sometimes. The order from the Admiralty sometimes runs thus: "Their Lordships have been pleased to make the following appointments." Then follow all the men that are to be promoted, and the men to be entered, and then concludes with "the other vacancies to be filled up by the captain superintendent."

2173. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated that there were seven vacancies to be filled up in January?—Seven was the number ordered; the Admiralty decided the number to be filled up.

2174. There were seven vacancies to be filled up by order of the Admiralty?—Yes.

2175. What

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2175. What is the usual time of sending down the names; are they sent down in December or January?—Sometimes, I have had them at all times of the year; probably, just when the application might be made to the Board, they send down an order to put such a boy upon the list of candidates for apprentices.

2176. When does the examination usually take place?—The first week in January.

2177. Did you say that the examination took place earlier than usual last time?—No, I have not the date when it took place; five were entered early in January; perhaps it was somewhat earlier, but very nearly about the usual time.

2178. When those names were sent down by the Board, on the 21st December, to fill up the seven places which were ordered to be filled up?—Yes.

2179. On the 24th four additional names were sent down?—Quite so.

2180. Is that the usual course, to send down additional names after the full number has been sent down?—The whole thing was so totally different from the previous practice, that it is impossible to compare the one with the other.

2181. Will you state what the previous practice was?—To begin making up the list, probably six months beforehand. I have frequently been stopped in the yard by men asking me, "Will you let my boy's name be put down," and such cases were sent to the master shipwright, and the whole question put before him, and if he reported that the boy's father was a deserving man, there was no difficulty in it. I never put down the name of any boy unconnected with the dockyards upon the list myself; I thought it belonged to the Board of Admiralty if they wished to do it. In that way the list went on making up, until the month of December; then we received an order, late probably in December, that so many apprentices were to be entered, and that the usual examination was to take place; in fact it is fixed by the 1847 minute, when the examination is to take place; and the boys' names are sent up to the Admiralty, with the whole of the circumstances; their parentage, their age, their qualifications, and the services of their parents; and the Board decides to whom the preference should be given.

2182. Then the course adopted in previous years was not followed in the last year?—No, certainly not.

2183. What has become of Groves?—He is still in the position to which he was appointed, because, after what has taken place, it is a comparative qualification. Groves can work a hammer, but he cannot work a hammer in my opinion, or that of the officers, in the best way.

2184. Are you still of opinion that it is inconvenient for the public service that Groves should have been appointed, and should continue in his appointment?—Most decidedly; my opinion has undergone no change. It is fair to say that he is improving, but he is like any man who is improving under his own teaching, rather than under the teaching of a superior man.

2185. Had you frequent opportunities of judging of the manner in which Cotsell performed his work?—Yes.

2186. What do you think of him?—I think he is a very good master smith, perhaps as good as you will usually find in the Royal service.

2187. *Chairman.*] Did Cotsell thoroughly understand the use of Nasmyth's hammer?—I do not think that any of our smiths do.

2188. A trial having been made, and you having seen men from a private yard show how they could use Nasmyth's hammers, are of opinion that none of the men in your yard are equally competent to use them?—There is no doubt about it; my opinion is given distinctly upon that in the letter of 1851, and I am still of the same opinion.

2189. Sir *B. Hall.*] When did you first see Mr. Stafford?—I first met him in Sheerness Dockyard, I think, in March; I will not be positive as to the date; I was attending duty at a court martial, and I met Mr. Stafford in company with Captain Hope, and Captain Hope introduced me to him. I cannot fix the time; it was decidedly before the correspondence in April, and I should rather be disposed to put it in March.

2190. Do you recollect Mr. Stafford coming down to Chatham, and his being in the yard with Sir Frederic Smith?—Yes.

2191. In the evidence taken before the Chatham Election Committee, Sir Frederic is asked, at Question 6413, "You wished to introduce him to Captain Richards? Yes.—Was that your object? Yes."—Are the Committee to understand that you saw Mr. Stafford before you saw him in Chatham Dockyard?—Yes;

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Yes; I spoke to him in Sheerness Yard. I was down there with my yacht, and there was a steam-vessel; the morning had been calm, and my yacht had been towed down by this steam-vessel. Mr. Stafford said he wished to return to Chatham. I said, "There is a steamer to take you up;" he said "No, I would rather go in your yacht, there is a nice breeze." He had some gentlemen with him. He said, "I should like to sail up better, than go by steam." At first, there was a little difficulty, my uniform was on board; but finding Mr. Stafford had a disposition to sail up, I said, "Very well; you can take the yacht, and I will go up by steam;" and he came up in the yacht.

2192. Then Sir Frederic Smith did not introduce you to Mr. Stafford, or Mr. Stafford to you, when you met him in the Chatham Yard?—I was not in the yard.

2193. You did not see him?—I did not see him till he came out of the yard.

2194. Did any introduction take place then?—None; none was necessary. I should not think it necessary to have any stranger to introduce me to an official person.

2195. Sir Frederic Smith, who was examined upon oath, says, in answer to Question 6412, in page 234, "Tell me why you occupied so much time? why did you go through the smithery and the ropery, and why did you go with Mr. Stafford? Mr. Stafford is a friend of mine. Mr. Stafford came down to the Sun lunch in his way. I said, 'Are you going to the yard.' He said, 'I am.' I said, 'Have you any objection to my accompanying you, and I will introduce you to my friend Captain Richards.' Although Captain Richards is of different politics to myself, he is a personal friend of mine, and a man I respect as a British officer.—6413. You wished to introduce him to Captain Richards? Yes.—6414. Was that your object? Yes, and to accompany him over the yard." Previously to that time, this being in the month of May*, you had met Mr. Stafford?—No doubt about it. As the question of my political leaning is before the Committee, I cannot allow it to pass without saying, that I am at a loss to understand how Sir Frederic Smith could have formed any opinion upon my politics, as I never had a political conversation with him in my life.

* The visit alluded to was that to Chatham, in June; the 26th.

2196. An appointment is also spoken of in this evidence for that day; had you any appointment for that day with Mr. Stafford?—No; certainly not.

2197. You did not see Mr. Stafford and Sir Frederic Smith in the yard?—No, I did not. I can tell the Committee exactly what happened about it. I was told, I think, about two months before that visit took place, as well as I can recollect, by Captain Milne, that there would be a formal visit, and that Captain Milne would come with Mr. Stafford, and, I think, Colonel Green, the director of works. That passed away; but as time drew on, I said to Captain Milne, "When are we to see you at the yard?" He said, "I do not know; I do not think I shall go at all." I think the visit took place about the end of June, immediately before the election; and I think, in the early part of June, Colonel Green told me that he thought it was probable he should come down to the yard with Mr. Stafford. I heard no more, but I expected Mr. Stafford. Something had been said about Saturday being the most convenient day, and I took care to be in the way on Saturdays; but on the Saturday upon which that visit actually took place, or rather on the Thursday, I read in the papers that Mr. Stafford had gone to inspect the Devonport Yard, and therefore I thought it impossible that he could be back so as to visit Chatham on that Saturday. I had occasion to go to pay some visits, and I think about two o'clock I left the yard by my boat to go to Rochester. On my way back I met a man who told me that Mr. Stafford was in the yard, and when I got near the gates I met Mr. Stafford in a fly with Sir Frederic Smith, and, I think, Mr. Grant, his secretary; I then said to Mr. Stafford, "I am sorry I did not know of your visit, that I might have been in the yard." He said that he was very sorry; he had been engaged with Lord Derby, and he could not give me notice; but another time he would take care that I should have notice. I said I hoped the officers had shown him every attention, and that he had seen everything he wished; and he said "Quite so;" and we parted.

2198. Can you inform the Committee when that took place?—I think it must have been one of the last Saturdays in June; on the 26th of June.

2199. Do you remember when the election took place?—The 6th of July.

2200. Mr. Stafford had been in the yard on the 26th of June with Sir Frederic Smith?—Certainly.

2201. Sir

2201. Sir Frederic Smith was well known to have been a candidate for the borough of Chatham at that time?—Everybody knew it.

2202. Did you hear afterwards that Mr. Stafford had gone round the dockyard with Sir Frederic Smith?—I say that I asked no questions about it, I asked no questions whatever; I did not think it proper to inquire from the officers what had been Mr. Stafford's course of proceeding in the yard.

2203. Did you, previously to the general election, receive any communication from any person connected with the Board of Admiralty, in reference to the election for the Borough of Chatham?—None whatever.

2204. The attention of the Committee has been directed very frequently to an order signed Augustus Stafford, and dated the 19th of April 1852, which cancelled their Lordship's order of the 26th of September 1849, and that letter is addressed to the superintendents of the various yards, and among others that of Chatham; you, of course, received a copy of that circular?—I did.

2205. The Committee have also had under their consideration another circular that was sent on the 26th of April 1852, addressed also to you. It commences "Misconstruction having arisen with reference to their Lordships' circular issued on the 19th instant, I am to acquaint you, that no imputation is intended to be cast thereby upon the Surveyor of the Navy." You received that, did you not?—Yes.

2206. Then it goes on to state. "The arrangements with regard to the dockyard promotions, as laid down by their Lordships' circular of the 27th February, 1847, will be strictly adhered to." Are the Committee to understand that that statement has not been adhered to?—Certainly.

2207. And that their Lordships' circular of the 26th of April 1852, where it is stated "Promotions, as laid down by their Lordships' circular of 27th February 1847, will be strictly adhered to," has been materially departed from?—No doubt of it; Ridgeway's was prior to that; but the other cases were after that, therefore it must be obvious that the rule was departed from.

2208. *Chairman.*] Do you consider, looking to the efficiency of the dockyards, that when a dockyard is within the limits of a borough, it would be an advantage or otherwise, to the service, that the men in the dockyard should have no vote?—I think the service would be very materially advantaged by their having no vote; it subjects them to an influence that cannot fairly be brought to bear upon any workman. It is true that the orders of the Admiralty are, that no officer shall attempt to influence the men; but in the last election, it has come to my knowledge since, chiefly through the Report of the Election Committee, that officers in Chatham Yard did influence, or attempted to influence the men. It is impossible that an officer can bring his influence to bear on a man, without the man being drawn, in some measure, from his purpose; he may intend to vote one way, and his officer asks him to vote in another; and he says, "I shall get into bad bread if I do not do it, although I think it is wrong to vote this way, I shall vote this way." If their votes were taken from them, that would go a long way to destroy the influence that one may suppose is at times brought to bear unfairly upon the men.

2209. Even if their votes were taken from them, their friends and relations are often living near, whose votes within the borough would be influenced by the men in the dockyard?—Of course; but then they would only be in the same position as the Excise and Customs, who, I believe, are not allowed to have any votes; influence would be brought to bear through their friends, the best plan of stopping it would be, if those who have the distribution of the patronage were to determine, as I believe Sir Francis Baring determined, not to receive those applications from anybody; and if they acted upon that order, that any persons attempting to use that influence should be considered disqualified for the situation they asked for.

2210. Lord *Hotham.*] In addition to the dockyard men being put upon the same footing as the officers of the Customs and Excise, not as a substitute?—It would be a substitute if the Board never listened to applications upon political grounds, or on any grounds except those of the public service. It is clear, whatever vote a man had, it would do no good.

2211. Would that be an efficient substitute, or would not the entire prevention of their voting be the better course of the two?—I think, if you could depend upon those at head-quarters not listening to any applications whatever

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except through the officers of the dockyards, then I think you have gained your point.

2212. *Chairman.*] Would it not be the most judicious plan to adopt both precautions?—If you did that, it would certainly be most effectual.

2213. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You stated, did you not, that it was only by the proceedings of the Chatham Committee that you became aware that any officer had been exercising any influence during the election?—I heard it; but I heard it in a way that I could not take any notice of it. I did hear of an instance, in fact. Sir James Stirling one day came to my office, accompanied by one of his supporters, and from his coming to me in that way, I saw very clearly that he came on an official errand, and he asked me if the officers of the yard were allowed to influence or intimidate the workmen. I told him no, most distinctly not; there was a positive order from the Admiralty against it; and I said, "You having been a Lord of the Admiralty ought to know that." He said, "I did not ask you for information. I knew it was the case, for I have seen the orders placarded upon the walls in the case of Admiral Stewart's election at Greenwich and Woolwich; but I came to ask you if you will allow it in your yard." I said, "Certainly not; give me the name of the officer who has done it, and I will send it to the Board immediately." He said, "No, I will not do that, I will not give you the name." I said, "Then it is of no use coming to me at all."

2214. If any such act had come officially under your notice, you would have thought it your duty to represent it in the proper quarter?—I must have done it; I could not have helped myself.

2215. Lord *Hotham.*] Have you read the evidence given before the Chatham Committee?—Partly. When Admiral Stirling told me he would not give the name, I said, "Very well, this conversation must be as if it had never been." He left the office, and I then sent for the master shipwright, and told him what I had heard; and I said, "You had better caution your officers to be very careful what they are about; for, as sure as I live, I do not care which side it is, if I catch any man influencing the workmen, I will bring his conduct under the notice of the Board." I sent for the master shipwright, because he controls the largest part of the yard. Out of 1,600 men, 1,200 are in his department; and it is chiefly among the shipwrights, subordinate officers, and inspectors, that those proceedings are carried on. He said, he was not aware that anything of the sort was taking place. I said, "I have been told it is, and you had better caution your people." He said, "Do you wish me to assemble the officers, and speak to them generally?" I said, "No, I do not want you to assemble everybody, that will be to cast censure upon those who are, perhaps, acting honestly enough; but if you are aware of anybody who is likely, caution them;" indeed, I pointed in a way that he could not mistake, to a man I did suspect. He went from my office, and he came over the next day and said, "You are very right, I have spoken to that man, and he said he was very sorry that he has been drawn into this; but he says he will have nothing more to do with it." I would rather not mention names; I merely give this as showing that I really knew nothing in the world about it. I took so little interest in that election, that I did not know the result till the following morning.

2216. Without any particular reference to this last election, are you aware of what the Chatham Committee reported, in reference to the exercise of government influence at Chatham, on all occasions, since Chatham has been a borough?—Quite so, it is notorious.

2217. *Chairman.*] By the dockyard regulation of 1844, all canvassing in dockyards is strictly forbidden?—Strictly.

2218. When the general election was coming on, did you call the attention of the men to that regulation?—No, I did not. I spoke to the officers, but the thing was so perfectly well known in the yard, that there was not a child in it who did not know that it was improper; I do not believe that there was any canvassing. What took place at the visit of Mr. Safford I do not know, as I did not think, looking at his high position as Secretary to the Admiralty, that it would be proper for me to ask the officers of the dockyard what had been his course during the time he was there. I am very sorry I was not in the yard myself; but that I could not help.

2219. Do you believe that the influence of the borough is often brought to bear upon entries into the yard?—No doubt about it.

2220. Are there any clubs established in the borough?—I believe there are; of

of my own knowledge I cannot say, but men frequently come before me, and talk to me of what they call the patronage committee. I frequently get letters and notes from different people to say, that they have been recommended to come to me from the patronage committee. Capt. *P. Richards*, R.N. 5 May 1853.

2221. There is a patronage committee in the borough?—I believe both in Chatham and in Rochester; I cannot speak positively; I only know what the people come to me and say.

2222. They send you recommendations, do they?—The men write, and say, that they have been sent to me by the patronage committee.

2223. They do not bring any document from the patronage committee?—No.

[The Witness withdrew.

Rear-Admiral *Arthur Fanshaw*, called in; and Examined.

2224. *Chairman.*] YOU are the Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard?—I am. Rear-Admiral *Arthur Fanshaw.*

2225. When were you appointed?—On the 1st of October 1852.

2226. When did you enter upon your appointment?—I took it up on the 1st of October, and I was at Portsmouth for three days; I was at that time on the Manning Committee, and returned to the Manning Committee. I went to Portsmouth again on the 16th or 17th of December.

2227. Had you been previously superintendent of any yard?—No.

2228. Who was your predecessor at Portsmouth?—Admiral Prescott.

2229. Where had you been before October?—My last appointment was Commander-in-Chief on the Coast of Africa.

2230. When was that?—I came home in June 1851.

2231. Lord *Hotham.*] Did you, on being appointed to Portsmouth Yard, receive any orders or instructions from the Duke of Northumberland upon the subject of political interference?—I did not, from the Duke himself, but I did from his secretary.

2232. Captain Pelham?—Yes.

2233. What were those instructions?—He informed me, to the best of my recollection, that his Grace's wish was, that the instructions contained in what is commonly called Sir Francis Baring's memorandum, should be strictly abided by, and that I should not interfere in any way in politics; I said I certainly had no wish to do so.

2234. Captain Pelham gave you to understand that it was the Duke's wish that you should adhere to the course pointed out by Sir Francis Baring?—Decidedly.

2235. Have you heard the evidence of Captain Richards?—Yes.

2236. He was asked his opinion as to the propriety of the dockyard men having votes at elections, and whether the good of the service would, or not, be promoted by their being put upon the same footing as the officers of the Customs and the Excise, in reference to interference in political matters, do you concur in his answer?—Yes; so far as I gathered his answer, I think any measure which would prevent the dockyard men being able to look to political influence, would be very desirable for the benefit of the service; whether the object would be best attained by strict adherence on the part of the Admiralty offices, and the departmental offices, to Sir Francis Baring's circular, or by disfranchisement, I am not prepared to say.

2237. Supposing both courses to be adopted, adherence to Sir Francis Baring's circular and also disfranchisement, would that be beneficial to the public service?—I think the service would be decidedly benefited.

[The Witness withdrew.

Serjeant *Benjamin Cross*, called in; and Examined.

2238. Sir *B. Hall.*] WHERE do you live?—Stonehouse, Devon. Serjeant *B. Cross.*

2239. Is Stonehouse a part of the Borough of Devonport?—Yes; it is a township.

2240. What are you?—Master tailor in the Royal Marines.

2241. Are you a serjeant in the marines?—Yes.

2242. How long have you been serjeant and master tailor?—Eleven years last new year's day.

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2243. Were you on the register of voters for Devonport in 1852?—I was.

2244. For East Stonehouse, which forms a part of the borough of Devonport?—Yes.

2245. Had you ever voted before?—Yes, in 1847.

2246. For whom did you vote then?—Sir John Romilly and Mr. Tufnell.

2247. Previously to the last election had you any conversation with Colonel Coryton as to the election?—I was sent for by him.

2248. Who came for you?—Serjeant Mortimore.

2249. At what time did he come to you?—I think it was about 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

2250. How long before the election?—About six or seven days; I cannot say exactly, but about a week.

2251. What did he say to you?—He said the colonel wanted me in the barracks; I was in my cutting-room at the time.

2252. Did he tell you at that time what the colonel desired to see you for?—I asked if he knew what the colonel wanted of me, and he said, "Well, I suppose you may guess; General Berkeley and Mr. Maxwell is with him."

2253. After that did you go to Colonel Coryton?—I went direct.

2254. Were you shown into his house?—I was, by the orderly, and ushered up stairs by the servant.

2255. Then had he preceded you from the place where he spoke to you in the first instance?—We went together.

2256. After you arrived at Colonel Coryton's house, were you shown into any room?—Yes, the colonel's drawing-room.

2257. Who was in the room at the time you were shown in?—Colonel Coryton, General Berkeley, and some one else I did not know; at the time my impression was that it was Sir John Maxwell; whether it was or not, I am not certain.

2258. You are sure that General Berkeley was one of the gentlemen present?—Yes.

2259. After you went into the room, what took place; who spoke to you first?—Colonel Coryton said General Berkeley wished to speak to me, and the general solicited my vote.

2260. In the presence of the colonel?—Yes.

2261. Was the colonel in uniform?—Yes; in his undress uniform.

2262. When General Berkeley asked you for your vote, what did you say?—I said he was too late. I had pledged for Sir John Romilly and Mr. Tufnell. He said he was sorry for that; and Colonel Coryton said, "Cross, you are a free agent." I said, "I am, sir, but I have pledged myself, and I am in duty bound to perform that pledge." The general again expressed himself that he was sorry for it, and I said, "Had I seen you at my house, I might have considered your request." There was some conversation took place with myself and the colonel; I do not know what it was. I said that I never took any active part in politics, but that I was pledged, and must perform my pledge.

2263. That was all that took place?—Yes, at that time.

2264. Do you know any other non-commissioned officers or privates who were canvassed in a similar manner?—Yes; Corporal Adkins was one; he was canvassed, I believe, the day afterwards.

2265. Do you know whether he had ever voted before?—I do not think he had.

2266. Lord *Hotham.*] Was he canvassed at the colonel's house?—Yes.

2267. Were you present?—No. He came to me and said, he knew I had been sent for. He came to me the same day, and said, "Well, Cross, what shall I do; I shall be sent for, most likely, to vote for General Berkeley." I said, "Which way are you going to vote;" and he said, "I have pledged for Sir John Romilly and Mr. Tufnell." I said, "You have one story to tell; say you are pledged; that is what I said; it was a plain, straightforward course; you do the same." He said, "I suppose I must." He was sent for by the colonel; that was the message that was given.

2268. Do you know of any other cases of non-commissioned officers or privates having been sent for and canvassed?—I do not know whether a man by the name of Marsh was sent for, but it was currently reported. He stated he was going to vote for General Berkeley, and he was promised for his vote, promotion to corporal; that

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that is the only case I know of. Mr. Ching was sent for before I was. He was not in the service; he is employed as a contractor.

2269. Do you know at all what the numbers were that were polled at that election?—Yes; I have it before me. At the election in 1852 there were polled: for Mr. Tufnell, 1,079; General Berkeley, 1,056; Sir John Romilly, 1,046; and for Sir John Maxwell, 1,032.

2270. Then, in point of fact, General Berkeley gained his election by a majority of ten votes?—Yes.

2271. Can you give the Committee any further information as to any interference with the Marines in reference to the election?—No, I do not know; the only three cases that I know of that took place was with me, Corporal Adkins, and Mr. Ching. Whether Corporal Marsh was sent for, or how he obtained a promise for his vote, I do not know. I knew he would be promoted; he said so, that he was promised by the colonel if he voted for General Berkeley.

2272. Lord *Hotham.*] Whom did he vote for?—For General Berkeley.

2273. Was he promoted?—He was promoted, I believe, the first promotion that took place afterwards. He was promoted in August; the general election took place in July.

2274. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Was he then a private?—Yes.

2275. All you know as to that is, that he was a private at the time, and that he afterwards became a corporal?—Yes; he told of it on the parade, and it became publicly known; he made no secret of it that he voted for General Berkeley, and he was promised to be made a corporal.

2276. Did he tell you that?—He told one of my men in the shop of it, and it was told me. I expected he would have been a corporal, and he was so. It was publicly told; I did not gain the information for any one.

[The Witness withdrew.

William Henry Ching, called in; and Examined.

W. H. Ching.

2277. Sir *B. Hall.*] WHAT are you?—A boot and shoemaker.

2278. In the Marines?—I do not belong to the corps. I have worked for them the last 12 years past.

2279. Lord *Hotham.*] You are a master shoemaker, do you work in the barracks always?—Yes, for some months past; since June last.

2280. Sir *B. Hall.*] What time in June did you begin?—About the 10th or 12th of the month.

2281. What time was the election; was it after that?—Yes.

2282. After you began to work in the barracks the election took place for the borough of Devonport?—Yes.

2283. Did you have any communication made to you from Colonel Coryton in reference to the election?—Yes.

2284. By whom was that communication made to you?—An attendant upon the colonel.

2285. Who is that?—A serjeant of Marines, Serjeant Mortimore.

2286. Did he come to you?—Yes.

2287. What did he say to you?—He said the commandant wanted me at his quarters.

2288. After receiving that message from Colonel Coryton through Serjeant Mortimore, did you go to Colonel Coryton?—Yes.

2289. Whom did you see there?—I saw a footman, I suppose, at the door, and I said, "Be kind enough to tell the commandant that I am here." I heard him say, "Tell Ching to walk up stairs," and I did so. When I got into the room I saw General Berkeley and some younger man whom I did not know, nor do I know him now; and General Berkeley shook me by the hand, and solicited my vote. Colonel Coryton said to me, "I shall feel glad if you will vote for my friend, Ching." I said, "I will see about it. I will consider the matter over;" that was all that passed.

2290. Had you ever voted before at any previous election?—I had voted for the last 14 or 15 years.

2291. How had you voted at the two previous elections?—Always for the Whig party.

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2292. How did you vote the last time?—I voted for Sir John Romilly and for General Berkeley.

2293. Can you state why you voted for General Berkeley, having always voted the other way before?—I was very awkwardly situated as a tradesman. I had got my living by the corps for a good many years, and I was fearful if I did not support General Berkeley I should lose my bread.

2294. Should you have voted for Mr. Tufnell and Sir John Romilly if it had not been for this interview which you had with Colonel Coryton?—Certainly I should.

2295. Do you know whether there were any voters in the Marine corps canvassed by Colonel Coryton?—Yes; the master tailor, I believe, Serjeant Cross.

2296. Do you know any more besides him?—Corporal Adkins.

2297. Anybody else?—I do not know.

2298. Have you much communication with the Marines?—Yes.

2299. Can you state whether it was in consequence of the course which Colonel Coryton took, that any impression was made upon the Marines as to the way in which they voted?—So far as I know myself, of that course, I must acknowledge I was bound to do as I have done.

2300. Lord *Hotham.*] You have stated that your impression was that you would be liable to lose your work if you did not vote as you did?—Yes.

2301. Not that the colonel told you that?—No.

[The Witness withdrew.

Serjeant *Thomas Mortimore*, called in; and Examined.

2302. Sir *B. Hall.*] WHAT are you?—A Serjeant in the Marines.

Serjeant *T. Mortimore.*

2303. Is Colonel Coryton colonel commandant?—Yes, he is.

2304. Are you what is called orderly to him?—I am.

2305. Did you receive any instructions from Colonel Coryton, previously to the last election, to go to any of the Marines having votes for the borough of Devonport?—I did.

2306. What instructions did you receive from Colonel Coryton?—I received orders from him to go to Mr. Ching, the master shoemaker first, to come to his quarters.

2307. Did you receive any instructions to go to any other persons?—After that I received instructions to go to the master tailor, Cross.

2308. Did you receive any instructions to go to any other?—After that I received instructions to go to Corporal Adkins, a clerk in the Divisional Pay office.

2309. How many did you see in consequence of the instructions received from Colonel Coryton?—I saw the whole three whom I was sent for.

2310. Did you see any other?—I did not.

2311. Not any?—No.

2312. Do you know a person of the name of Merritt?—I do.

2313. Did you go to him?—I did not.

2314. What did Colonel Coryton say to you, when he gave you instructions to go to those parties?—He ordered me to go to Mr. Ching, the master shoemaker, to tell him to come to his quarters, and I did so.

2315. And as regards the others?—He did the same.

2316. Did he tell you for what purpose he required their presence?—He did not.

2317. Where is Colonel Coryton's house situate; is it in the barracks?—Yes.

2318. Is it the house usually occupied by the Colonel Commandant of Marines?—It is.

2319. Does it adjoin the yard, or is it near any Government yard?—I think about a quarter of a mile from the victualling yard.

2320. Did you speak to any other persons with reference to their votes?—I did not.

2321. Not anybody?—No.

2322. Lord *Hotham.*] Were you a voter?—No.

2323. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Did any of those persons you went to, ask you what Colonel Coryton wanted them for?—Cross did, the master tailor; he asked me, and I said I did not know; he asked me, was there any other person in the house with the Colonel, and I said there were two gentlemen, but I did not know who they were.

[The Witness withdrew

Colonel *John Rawlings Coryton*, called in; and Examined.

2324. Sir *B. Hall.*] YOU are Colonel Commandant of Marines, at Devonport, are you not?—Yes.

2325. How long have you been there?—I have been there 12 months last December.

2326. Do you reside in the barracks?—I do.

2327. You have been present, have you not, during the time Serjeant Mortimore and two other persons were examined?—I have.

2328. Will you state to the Committee what part you took in the election, and what directions you gave to Serjeant Mortimore?—I gave no directions to him beyond what he has just stated to the Committee, that I wished to see Serjeant Cross and Mr. Ching. I was not aware myself, I did not recollect, that I had sent for Corporal Adkins; when I left Plymouth, I was confident that I had not; but I must have done so; there is no doubt about it.

2329. You desired Mortimore to go for those parties?—Yes.

2330. And they came to your house?—Yes.

2331. Will you inform the Committee what took place after those parties came to your house?—On the morning in question, of which I do not know the date, but previously to the election, not long before it, Major Toby, the barrack-master, came to my house with Sir George Berkeley and Colonel Berkeley, and introduced me to them; they were shown into my drawing-room, and Sir George Berkeley asked me if I had any objection to his seeing Mr. Ching and Mr. Cross, and I said, not the least; and I sent my orderly for them. First Mr. Ching came; and he says that I said "I shall be glad if you will vote for my friend." I positively declare upon my honour, that I said nothing of the kind. My firm belief is, most distinctly, that I merely introduced him to Sir George Berkeley, and said, "He wishes to speak to you respecting electioneering business," and I left the room, using no kind of influence with him whatever; when I returned to the room, Mr. Ching told me he had promised to vote for Sir George. I do not think that I spoke to Cross in any shape whatever, but I think I said to Sir George Berkeley, "Has he promised you his vote," and he said, "No, he has not." Now really I must claim belief from the Committee, as I can have no object in saying so, that I have not the slightest recollection of any conversation with Cross. I had not the least idea that I had ever seen Cross, so little interest did I take in it; but Sir George Berkeley coming to me as an old and distinguished officer, I did not consider that in my position there as Commandant, I should be at all justified in refusing to see him. Sir George Berkeley had been visiting other officers of higher rank than myself, and I could see no impropriety in it. I declare before this Committee, that I used no kind of influence whatever in Sir George Berkeley's behalf, and as to this man, Marsh, it is the first time I have heard of it. I distinctly, upon my honour, declare that he never was promised promotion by me, nor do I recollect why he was promoted. I hope the Committee will permit me to state, that since I have been Commandant I have never promoted any man who was not regularly entered and recommended to me by the different officers. If I had known what I had been called for, I would have brought up the lists of the candidates for promotion. My rule has been, never to promote a man but by seniority on the list; when a man is recommended to me for promotion, and I am quite satisfied he is worthy of it, I order him to be placed on the candidate's list according to his seniority of service, and when vacancies occur, I call for that list, and they are promoted entirely from that list. I declare again, most solemnly, that I have never deviated from that list but on two occasions, and that was to carry out the original intention of the order for colour serjeants, namely, that they had distinguished themselves in action, and with that exception, the list has been taken down fairly; and if I could produce it I could show it to the Committee, that it has been taken down regularly, and ticked off by me, without favour or affection. This man, Marsh, I know nothing about; it is the first time that I have ever heard his name mentioned, nor do I know who had votes in the barracks; nor have I interfered in any shape whatever. My whole attention was taken up with keeping my men in good humour, by providing games for them, in having a wrestling ring made for them with loads of tan and sawdust; and we had a pig with a soaped tail, and poles, and running in sacks, and blindfold with wheelbarrows, and various other things,

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which prevented the men from wishing to go out of the barracks; they came to an understanding that no man should attempt to break barracks.

2332. Lord *Hotham.*] The men were confined to the barracks?—Yes; married men and all were brought in. I found they were likely to break out; and it was reported that a man had taken a serjeant's jacket to pass the gate, and another was seen in plain clothes, and I thought the best way would be to keep the men in good humour.

2333. *Chairman.*] That was during the time of the election?—Yes.

2334. Sir *B. Hall.*] Did it not strike you, when Sir George Berkeley came to you and asked you to send for those men under your command, that the very fact of his canvassing the men in your presence must have had an effect upon the men so canvassed?—Upon my word, I never reflected at all upon that. It does not appear to have had that effect by any means in the world. The fact is, that both of the men whom I had any authority over whatever distinctly voted against him.

2335. Ching has stated to the Committee that, had it not been for the part he believed you took in the election, and through fear, he should have voted as he voted before?—By what corrupt motives he may have been influenced I cannot tell, but I did not attempt to corrupt him. I would say that, when I took the command, I received anonymous letters, which I still have, complaining of the men being dreadfully overcharged; that he charged them 9*s.* 10*d.* for their boots, which these letters said were supplied for 5*s.* 6*d.* to other divisions. I immediately inquired into the complaint, and found that it was justly founded; and I ordered the quartermaster to have boots sent in from all the respectable bootmakers about the three towns, to see which could furnish the best at the lowest prices, and they were so supplied. A committee sat to judge which pair was the best, and Mr. Ching's was not the best; but the pair that was considered to be so was sealed with my seal, the second in command, and another field officer's, and were placed in the quartermaster's office for all captains of companies to be guided by. Ching is not master shoemaker; it is quite a mis-statement; or master bootmaker.

2336. How much did you reduce the price?—To 7*s.* 6*d.*

2337. Lord *Hotham.*] From what?—From 9*s.* 10*d.*

2338. And you got a better article?—Yes, a better article for the money.

2339. Sir *B. Hall.*] Did you see any other voter besides those who have been named?—On my honour I did not.

2340. Did you receive any instructions from the Admiralty, or any official communication as to the election?—Yes, I received this confidential circular: "If any officer, non-commissioned officer, or private of the division under your command should require leave of absence for the purpose of recording his vote at the ensuing general election, you will be pleased to grant the same, reporting such applications to this office."

2341. Did you receive any other communication?—No.

2342. Did you receive a communication after the election as to the names of the persons who had voted?—Yes.

2343. What was the nature of that communication?—I will read it; it is also a private and confidential letter, but I have permission to use it. "Royal Marine Office, 9th April 1853. My dear Colonel,—It is said that a Member of the House of Commons has received a letter stating that the Colonel Commandant of the Plymouth Marines did interfere with last election for Devonport or Plymouth, inasmuch as he called for a list of the men under his command who had votes, with a view to influence them. It is also said that a bandsman, of the name of Young, on being asked for his vote, hesitated, stating that he had some time before asked for his discharge from the service, which was refused: and that this man having subsequently voted, was then discharged It is, moreover, stated that the Colonel sent the names of some voters to London. Another Member, who communicated these reports to me, is desirous of being enabled to contradict them in his place in the House, should there be any occasion for his so doing. I have therefore to request that you will lose no time in stating whether there be any or what foundation for those reports. I am, my dear Colonel, faithfully yours, *John Owen*, Deputy Adjutant-General." This is dated the 9th of April.

2344. After the election, was any communication made to you as to any names of persons who voted?—No other.

2345. None whatever?—None. I will read my reply if the Committee will allow me:

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me: "Plymouth, April 10th, 1853. (Private and confidential.) My dear Sir John,—I was much surprised by your letter this morning, acquainting me, first, 'It is said that a Member of the House of Commons has received a letter, stating that the Colonel Commandant of the Plymouth Marines did interfere with last election for Devonport or Plymouth, inasmuch as he called for a list of the men under his command who had votes, with a view to influence them.' To this I reply, there is not the slightest foundation for any part of such allegation. Secondly, 'It is also said that a bandsman, of the name of Young, on being asked for his vote, hesitated, stating that he had some time before asked for his discharge from the service, which was refused; and this man having subsequently voted, was then discharged.' To this I reply, I know nothing further respecting this man, than that it appears, by the enclosed memorandums, he came before me requesting his discharge some months before the election; and, in accordance with your admonition to the musicians of the division, in 1850, namely, that they must not consider themselves entitled to discharge on demand for length of service, without a proper time being allowed to replace them, I requested him to remain until some other was qualified to succeed him; to which it appears, by the enclosed statement from Captain Forbes, late adjutant, he readily acceded; that upon another being reported so qualified, he renewed his application for discharge, which was complied with. I do not recollect ever having spoken to, or communicated with Young, on any other occasion. Thirdly, 'It is moreover stated, that the colonel sent the names of some voters to London.' To this I reply, such statement is entirely groundless." (Signed by me.) I had no recollection of the circumstance, when I was applied to by the letter of the 9th of April. I had taken so little interest in the matter that I never thought of it again; therefore I was obliged to call upon him, Captain Forbes, to remind me of the circumstances, and this is the memorandum he sends. I may observe, that this officer was not under my command when he gave this; he was promoted, and was removed to the Portsmouth division, and could not be under my influence: "Royal Marine Barracks, Stonehouse, 10 April 1853. (Memorandum.)—John Young, late a drummer and musician in the band of the Plymouth division of Royal Marines, was not granted his discharge on his first application, in consequence of a difficulty in supplying his vacancy in the band. He was therefore requested to remain a short time, until another drummer could be trained to play upon the instrument which he played in the band; to this he readily acceded, and, at the expiration of about three months, on the bandmaster's report of the efficiency of his substitute drummer, Tavernor, his renewed application for discharge was acceded to by the Commandant. (signed) *G. W. Forbes*, Captain, late Adjutant Royal Marines.—Colonel Coryton, Royal Marines, Plymouth." This is the second application made for his discharge: "Sir,—Three months having elapsed since I submitted an application, requesting to be discharged. I now beg respectfully to renew my application, humbly hoping you will be pleased to accede to my request. I am, your obedient and humble servant, (signed) *John G. Young*, Drummer, 47th Company, Royal Marines. Services: 24 years and five months."

2346. Then, with the exception of Cross, Atkins, and Marsh, you did not see any other persons connected with the election?—I saw Cross and Ching only.

2347. Lord *Hotham*.] You are quite positive that there is no truth in the statement that you ever promised promotion to Marsh, provided he voted for General Berkeley?—Most unreservedly, upon my honour, none; without the slightest reservation, distinctly not.

2348. *Chairman*.] You stated, did you not, that you did not see any impropriety, as a military man, in having persons under your command brought into your room to be canvassed?—Upon my word, I never thought about it at all; he was a very distinguished general officer, whom I had never seen before, and never have seen since, and certainly I did not think I should be justified in refusing him; if the candidate on the other side had come, I should have had no objection whatever, any more than I would when the police come to recognise a man, and go through the ranks.

2349. If any other person had come and said, "I want to canvass some men under your command," would you have sent for them?—I should, as freely the one as the other. I was not asked to allow them to be canvassed then, though there could be no misunderstanding about it; it was for that purpose certainly.

2350. You knew that they were going to be canvassed?—I had no doubt upon that point.

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2351. Did it occur to you that there was the least impropriety in doing that?—I did not think the least in the world about it.

2352. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You are not a voter?—I am not. I wish to add, that I certainly should not, after this experience, permit a thing of the kind again; but, not having been forewarned, I did not see any impropriety in it at the time. I was otherwise engaged, and took no interest whatever in the matter.

[The Witness withdrew.

Commodore *Michael Seymour*, R. N., called in; and Examined.

Commodore *M. Seymour*, R. N.

2353. YOU are the Superintendent of the Dockyard at Devonport, are you not?—I am.

2354. When were you appointed?—In September 1851.

2355. Had you been previously in any other yard?—In Sheerness Dockyard, as superintendent.

2356. How long had you been there?—From the previous month of November 1850.

2357. Before November 1850, had you been in any other dockyard?—My previous command was in the West Indies, in command of the "Vindictive," having returned from that service in 1848.

2358. And you were appointed in 1850 to the Sheerness Dockyard?—Yes.

2359. By whom were you appointed to Sheerness?—By Sir Francis Baring.

2360. Do you know whether it was through any political application that you obtained your appointment?—I think not; I never knew Sir Francis Baring in private life or politically; I had never seen him until he was First Lord of the Admiralty.

2361. Will you state in what way you received your appointment?—I will read his letter. "Admiralty, 11th November 1850. My dear Sir,—The death of Admiral Bouverie vacates Sheerness Yard. I believe I shall do my duty to the public service in offering it to you. There is one understanding on which I insist, that you will not enter into local politics; what you privately may feel I do not inquire or interfere with; but it is an object which I anxiously have in view to banish political jobbing from the dockyards, and for this reason I think it my duty to make it a condition, that the superintendents of the yards should not interfere in politics on either side." This is the letter appointing me to Devonport, and it is dated 26th August 1851. "My dear sir,—The accounts which we have received of Lord John Hay leave no hope of his recovery, indeed I expect by to-morrow's post to hear his death. It makes it necessary for me to make arrangements for the dockyard at Devonport. The whole working of our system depends on the superintendents in the several yards, and I am anxious to appoint to Devonport an officer who may remain there some time, and who will be efficient. I have myself not visited Sheerness since you have been there, but I have heard from several quarters on whom I can rely, an account of your proceedings. In offering you the dockyard at Devonport, I believe I shall do the best for the public service in securing the superintendence of an officer who has shown that he can perform the duty in a satisfactory manner. I need not say that the same condition of non-interference in local politics attaches to every yard; and, if possible, I attach more importance to it at Devonport than anywhere else. I am about to go abroad for a fortnight, and have therefore been advised to write to you before a vacancy at Devonport has actually taken place. I wish to settle my arrangements before leaving England. I shall be obliged, therefore, by an immediate answer, and by your not mentioning this communication to anybody until hearing further. I am, my dear Sir, yours, &c. &c., *F. Baring.*"

2362. That was in August 1851?—Yes.

2363. You proceeded to Devonport Dockyard in September that year?—Yes.

2364. Is there any other letter?—No.

2365. During the time that Sir Francis Baring was at the Admiralty, had any promotions taken place in your Dockyard at Devonport?—Yes, in the usual course; none of which I can lay particular stress upon; none of them were deviations from the rule under which we then acted.

2366. You were satisfied with the course adopted in reference to your recommendations?—I was.

2367. You

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2367. You sent your recommendations through the Surveyor of the Navy?—I did.

2368. Did you find that your recommendations, when sent through the Surveyor of the Navy, were fairly treated?—They were quite so during the period that Sir Francis Baring was at the Admiralty. Soon after I took the command of the yard, there was a large superannuation of people supposed to be somewhat aged and inefficient; and it left open several cases for recommendation, and the whole of them were attended to. I more particularly recollect the circumstance, because the principal officer said there was a rumour that it was doubted whether the recommendations I had sent would not be put aside by certain influence outside the dockyard; but they were all attended to, and they were all promoted and advanced as sent forward.

2369. You say there had been a rumour, at that time, that some political influence would be used?—Yes.

2370. It has been stated to this Committee, that on the 26th of April 1852 seven labourers were advanced to be sawyers, without any recommendation from the superintendent of the dockyard at Devonport; I ask you, first, was that a case in which you would have expected that the recommendations of the superintendent would have been attended to?—The case of labourers and sawyers, who are, if I may so term it, irregularly admitted, came direct from the Admiralty; some were displaced, that is, some labourers were displaced who had previously done the duty of sawyers; and there was an instance or two in which a hired labourer was put on the established list irregularly.

2371. Is it a matter of course, when there are vacancies among the sawyers, that labourers should be advanced to be sawyers?—We are always liable to our pairs of sawyers being broken; there are always a certain number of labourers selected to take the places to complete the pairs; and when a vacancy occurs actually there, they are supposed to become entitled to be appointed as sawyers.

2372. You think that that chance of being appointed as sawyers promotes industry and good conduct among the men?—There is no doubt of it; and they regard it as an act of unfairness, that a man should be put aside, when he is led to believe that he shall be advanced in the usual way.

2373. During the time you were at Devonport, under Sir Francis Baring, had any cases of this kind arisen, that there had been vacancies among the sawyers, and that you recommended labourers to fill those vacancies?—I have no recollection; but I should state at once, that every person who was sent forward as fit was admitted; and I have no recollection of any deviation from the usual order of 1847.

2374. You did, as I understand, recommend persons to be advanced to be sawyers in April 1852?—Yes.

2375. There were some labourers advanced to be sawyers; was there any recommendation from you regarding them?—They came direct from the Admiralty, as I before stated; I have them here entered by special Admiralty Board's Order, without reference to the circular of 1847.

2376. How many were there?—Twelve altogether.

2377. You considered that, as far as I understand you, an injustice to the labourers who had been doing the duty?—Yes, as I understood it, from the Board's interference with what they had a right to expect, and which they did not get.

2378. They had been doing the duty?—Yes, they had been doing the duty from time to time, a month or five or six weeks, as sawyers, and were again sent back to their labourers' duty.

2379. Upon those appointments, they were all sent back to their duty?—It displaced a certain number; I do not say the whole of that number; perhaps seven, eight, or nine; several were displaced.

2380. Was it in consequence of that occurrence that you wrote the letter to Sir Baldwin Walker which has been read to this Committee, dated the 27th of April 1852. "We have a foreshadowing in this yard of a return to the corrupt and dishonest practices of the past; the policy of our late excellent and most respected chief, that so largely sustained and encouraged officers in my situation, is cast aside, and I confess to a sense of humiliation"?—I perfectly remember that passage, but that is not the whole of the note; I have not a copy of it here; I think Sir Baldwin Walker must have it. (*The letter was handed to the Witness.*) This is the entire note. "Confidential. Dockyard, Devonport, 27 April 1852. My

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My dear Walker,—We have a 'foreshadowing' in this yard of a return to the corrupt and dishonest practices of the past. The policy of our late excellent and most respected chief, that so largely sustained and encouraged officers in my situation, is cast aside, and I confess to a sense of humiliation. A wholesale nomination to vacancies has this morning come, I fear, without strict reference to necessity; and I cannot forbear expressing a hope, that the discouragements so peculiarly attaching to your important position, may not only not disturb you, but rather lead to a determination to weather a storm that cannot continue; arising, as I yet charitably hope, out of an inability to understand the disastrous professional consequences that inevitably belong to the sacrifice of your great department to the emergencies of a political struggle. I should be indeed happy to find my apprehensions ill-grounded, and still more so, that we have the certainty of your continuance in a post so universally approved.

2381. Now, you wrote that letter, as I understand, upon receiving from the Admiralty those names to be advanced as sawyers?—Yes.

2382. Did you have any other communication from the Admiralty, which led you to believe that there would be an alteration of the system of past years?—I duly received two communications that were made, overthrowing the system by which everything went through the surveyor, and a second letter, stating that it had no reference to him personally; casting no imputation upon him personally.

2383. Did you report to the Admiralty that there were a certain number of vacancies for sawyers?—The reports of vacancies go forward always every month.

2384. Therefore, your last report will show that there were a certain number of vacancies?—Yes.

2385. Had you appended to that report any note or suggestion how those vacancies should be filled up?—No; in the case of vacancies, whenever I thought it necessary, from the state of the yard, judging of the various departments, that any vacancies should be filled up, I should have stated that it was necessary; but in the absence of any such statement from me I consider, unless the Surveyor judged it fit from his cognisance of the whole yard, to increase a particular department, that it would so remain. I have always considered as to the dockyard that it was not right to fill it up to the establishment; on the contrary, if we found that the work was going right with a fewer number of men, it ought to be kept at a low number. And a necessity should be shown as to the propriety of filling up vacancies.

3386. As I understand you, reporting the vacancies monthly, and adding no note, you expected that the vacancies would have been left until some report was made showing whether they were wanted to be filled up?—Yes; or to the judgment of the Surveyor, who we always consider knows the whole state and condition of the dockyards, receiving from us reports of what their condition is.

2387. That had been your usual course in former times?—Yes; that always had been my practice.

2388. How do you name those labourers who are employed as sawyers?—They are still labourers.

2389. Who names them; are they appointed by the Admiralty?—No; they are chosen by the master shipwright, the timber inspector, and other officers, who consider that the man is fit, and likely to turn out a good sawyer.

2390. They are men who, under the present system at the dockyard, are taken in and tried?—They are taken from the body at large of the labourers, and chosen.

2391. Subsequently, in the course of May or June, were any other day-labourers promoted to be sawyers, without being recommended by the superintendent?—I think I must limit myself to the observation I made before, that they are confined almost entirely to sawyers and labourers. To the best of my recollection, there may have been some occasional irregularity of a boy; but it is not fixed in my memory, so as to be able, without reference, to say who they were.

2392. Generally speaking, are the Committee to understand that your recommendations were attended to at the Admiralty?—Quite so, except in the instance that I have stated.

2393. Were there no recommendations for promotion?—I have no recollection of any. There are three labourers, I see, that I have omitted in the number I gave. On the 28th of April, by an Admiralty Order of the 26th of April; two others,

on

on the same date, were entered by a special Admiralty Order, without reference to the circular of February 1847.

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2394. Those are, as far as you can now remember, the only cases in which the circular of 1847 was departed from?—Precisely.

2395. When you received the circular of the 19th of April, cancelling the circular of 1849, did you communicate with Admiral Parker upon the subject?—No, I did not; the immediate effect of it was not felt upon my yard; it would only be felt with reference to appointments.

2396. Did you afterwards communicate with Admiral Parker upon the cancelling of that circular, or upon the mode in which promotions were made?—I had two letters; my communications to Admiral Parker were not frequent; but I have one here dated September 1852, that bears a little on the matter. I must say, that it was supposed that political influence existed in Devonport Dockyard, and in one instance, three communications marked private and confidential, were made by one post to me on the subject of the appointment of a joiner of the name of Oram, instead of a man who was supposed to have been displaced, of the name of Burt, and those confidential letters supposed that the master shipwright had, unknown to me or otherwise, exercised political influence. It unfortunately happened that the man's name was the name, I believe, of a political agent in the Whig interest; he is also, I believe, a Whig voter; and the man Oram displaced a man of the name of Burt, who was a conservative, or belonged to that interest, so I understood it, and the complaint came, I believe from the conservative party.

2397. That was a case, as I understand, in which a person who voted on the liberal side was promoted?—He was supposed to have been put forward by the master shipwright of the yard. I had forwarded his application, and it was confirmed by the Admiralty.

2398. When was that?—In September or the end of August 1852.

[The Witness withdrew.

Veneris, 6° die Maii, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Mr. Beckett.
Lord Hotham.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Sir Henry Ferguson Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Commodore *Michael Seymour*, R. N., called in; and further Examined.

2399. *Chairman.*] WITH regard to your letter, dated 27th April 1852, to Sir Baldwin Walker, which has been laid before the Committee; in that letter you commence by saying, "We have a foreshadowing in this yard of a return of the corrupt and dishonest practices of the past:" to what practices do you refer?—The practices which I have frequently understood, less from facts than rumours, have at all times existed since Devonport has been a borough.

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2400. Were those rumours which you heard from friends in the naval service?—From a great many people; it is impossible to say whether from applicants for posts in the dockyard, or from casual friends speaking on dockyard questions; but I have no doubt of the existence of what I have alluded to.

2401. Was that "past" a long time back?—It appeared to me that, during Sir Francis Baring's administration at the Admiralty there had been a cessation of that action, if I may so term it, outside, and that we had been free from a good deal of that pressure.

2402. When you used those words, "corrupt and dishonest practices of the past," you did not allude definitely to anything you were yourself aware of in past times?—No.

2403. What is the established number for the dockyard at Devonport?—Rather over 2,200 persons; it fluctuates.

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2404. Is not there a fixed establishment?—There is.

2405. There ought to be a fixed establishment in every dockyard; what is the fixed establishment for Devonport?—I have given the total here as 2,089; I have in addition, 10 colour-women, 72 police; and, again, under "extra men," I have 20 ropemakers, nine labourers, 15 house-boys, and 49 labourers, for the general survey of the stores, consequent upon a change of storekeepers. It is always usual, when new storekeepers come in, to have a survey of the stores they take in charge.

2406. You have taken in an extra number of labourers?—Yes, I see 49 here for that purpose.

2407. Can you state the number of entries in the yard, during the different months of 1852: have you any paper which will enable you to state that?—I do not think I can very readily tell the Committee the precise number.

2408. Did they vary much at different periods of the year?—Yes, they did; and that letter which has been alluded to made some reference to a very large number which came down by the Admiralty Order.

2409. In April 1852?—Yes.

2410. Can you give the Committee any more definite statement with respect to that large number; what was the number which came down?—I have here the various Admiralty Orders; here is one, of the 26th of April, containing 25 appointments.

2411. Had you made any application to the Admiralty or to the Surveyor for additional force in the dockyard?—I have no recollection of doing so; the usual monthly statement of vacancies had been sent to the Admiralty then.

2412. Did you receive a greater supply of workmen and labourers than you required?—It is difficult to answer that question; they were within the general establishment; they were appointed by the Admiralty authority, and I am to suppose that they considered it necessary to appoint them.

2413. I suppose you could find work for any number that might be sent to you?—We should endeavour to do so; it would be our duty to do it.

2414. Did you ever have such a number sent to you that you had a difficulty in finding employment for them?—No, never, that I recollect.

2415. Lord *Hotham*.] Do you recollect what number of vacancies your last monthly report, previously to those 25 names coming down, had borne upon it?—I do not.

2416. You have not that monthly report with you?—No; I have in my hand a list of vacancies in the yard on the 1st of March 1852.

2417. *Chairman*.] Will you state the number of vacancies?—There were "3 shipwrights, leading men, 12 shipwrights, 23 apprentices, 3 caulkers' apprentices, 1 oakum-boy, 6 joiners;" opposite the 6 joiners, "A vacancy not to be filled; Admiralty Order, 22d November 1850." "A painter, 2d class; 18 sawyers wanted to cut the materials for the 'St. Jean d'Acre;' labourers are employed as sawyers on above duty; smith hammerman, one; ditto, apprentices, two; workmen at saw-mills, two." Opposite that, "Not wanted." "Riggers, three;" and the remark, "Two not wanted." This was an arrangement by which we could do without two. "Seamen riggers, seven vacancies; sailmakers, one, not to be filled; Admiralty Order, 11th June 1851; house-boys, two; women twine-spinners, two, not wanted; policemen, two; house-boys, three."

2418. How many vacancies for sawyers were there?—Eighteen.

2419. How many labourers do you state were employed as sawyers?—"Labourers are employed as sawyers on above duty." There was a correspondence in reference to sawing out the frame for the "St. Jean d'Acre," and with reference to labourers being employed on that duty.

2420. That was the monthly return that went up to the Admiralty?—It is marked on the back, "1st March 1852."

2421. This is the form in which the monthly return is made, is it?—That is the sheet which goes with the established sheet.

2422. This went through the Surveyor, did not it?—Yes.

2423. After the circular of the 19th of April, was a duplicate of this sent to the Surveyor, or was it only sent to the Board?—It was continued to be sent to the Surveyor till an order came down, cancelling the order by which it was sent.

2424. After the order of the 19th of April 1852, which cancelled the former practice of sending any papers through the Surveyor of the Navy, are the Committee

mittee to understand you to mean that this paper would not have gone to the Surveyor of the Navy?—No, it would not, and it did not, that I am aware of; it was addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, instead of the Surveyor of the Navy.

2425. In this paper there is a remark, "Workmen for saw-mills not wanted;" who writes those remarks?—That paper is prepared in the storekeeper's office, where the wages and the time are brought to book in reference to payment; the document comes forward from him to my office.

2426. Would it be revised by the master attendant?—It would be consequent upon a communication with the master shipwright; with respect to the seamen-riggers, the information would be obtained from the master attendant.

2427. In this paper you say, "18 sawyers wanted to cut materials for the 'St. Jean d'Acre;'" then it is added, "Labourers are employed as sawyers on above duty"?—The establishment of sawyers was not equal to the amount of work required to cut out the frame of the "St. Jean d'Acre;" and it was necessary to employ others, and labourers were put on the duty.

2428. When you speak of labourers, do you mean that you get good workmen as sawyers?—They are brought on from the labourers; as pairs are broken, they are brought in, in reference to casualties, to make up pairs for sawing work; in the case of a sick sawyer, when he returns, the labourer who has taken his place falls back to his duty as labourer.

2429. Will you give the Committee the corresponding monthly Return for April?—I am afraid I have not the Return for April. I have one of the 1st of June 1852.

2430. Lord *Hotham.*] I suppose the Return for April could be obtained from your office?—No doubt of it.

2431. *Chairman.*] During the month of April a number of sawyers had been appointed?—Yes.

2432. I find in the Return which is sent in on the 1st of June, "Vacancies for sawyers, topmen 10, and pitmen 4." "Labourers employed as temporary sawyers." Therefore, although a number of sawyers had been appointed by the Admiralty, you still had 14 labourers, as it appears, employed as temporary sawyers in June?—No doubt that is correct; we were employing more than our established number of sawyers in consequence of an excess of work. I think I stated yesterday that when a number of sawyers were appointed, certain labourers who had been in the habit of working as sawyers were thrown back to their capacity as labourers, to make way for the sawyers ordered to be entered by the Admiralty.

2433. Have you a general authority to employ labourers as sawyers?—We have authority to employ labourers as the necessities of the case may require; it is our mode of recruiting sawyers. We choose good labourers, according to their fitness, and allow them to work as sawyers, and ultimately to become established sawyers. When they are temporarily on work, from established sawyers being sick, they receive the pay of sawyers; that work being over, they fall back to their pay as labourers.

2434. If sawyers are wanted, I thought it was the proper course to send up to the Admiralty, and to say that there are vacancies for so many sawyers, and that so many were wanted?—We send up in the way which this sheet expresses.

2435. That has two effects; you not only send up to say that sawyers are wanted, but you take in labourers and employ them as sawyers, giving them therefore a claim afterwards to be appointed to fill up the vacancies among the sawyers; is that so?—Precisely so.

2436. Would not it be the more regular course to send up to the Admiralty when you want sawyers, and say, for example, "Ten sawyers are wanted"?—We do so, by the Return sheet.

2437. But you do that, having put in labourers to do the work of sawyers?—Yes, we have always labourers, more or less, employed on sawying; we recruit from them; we cannot go on without them, in fact, in order to make up pairs for the work of the yard. At this time there was a pressure of work over and above what the establishment would meet.

2438. If there was such a pressure of work, that justified the Admiralty in sending you down more sawyers, did not it?—Undoubtedly, that was a justification for increasing the number of sawyers.

2439. Were the Admiralty, or not, acting in accordance with the usual practice of that Board, in sending you down a number of sawyers in April, when, as

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you say, there was a pressure of work?—The Committee must understand that what I have referred to as a pressure of work, occasioned a correspondence with the Admiralty. I have here a correspondence of the 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th of December 1851, the Surveyor of the Navy approving of labourers being employed as sawyers at the works of the "St. Jean d'Acre."

2440. That was in December 1851?—The 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th of December 1851.

2441. There was then a pressure of work, and you employed labourers as sawyers?—Yes.

2442. Then you went on employing labourers as sawyers during the months?—Yes; those labourers were 16 in number. "By Admiralty Order of the 26th of April 1852, the under-mentioned persons have been appointed as sawyers; nine of the labourers now employed as sawyers are to return to their ordinary work as labourers;" this is a copy of the Minute.

2443. When was that Minute made?—The 26th of April 1852. "By Admiralty Order of the 11th of June 1852, the following appointments are to take place in this dockyard: Six individuals to be entered as sawyers; the like number of labourers now employed as temporary sawyers are consequently to return to their duty as labourers."

2444. The usual practice, you say, is, when that pressure of work is over, for the labourers to return to their ordinary duties as labourers?—They return when they are only required under extraordinary circumstances; when the sick sawyer returns to his work, the labourer put into his place returns to his ordinary duty.

2445. Those men, in returning to their duty, did nothing more than had been the usual practice in the dockyard, did they?—Yes, those men were displaced by the Admiralty Order which directed those entries. I stated that yesterday.

2446. Mr. *Beckett.*] Are the Committee to understand that they had been advanced by you?—They had been selected.

2447. *Chairman.*] That, as I understand you, gave them a sort of claim to be named as sawyers whenever sawyers were to be appointed?—Yes, there was unfairness in displacing those men, and I have reason to believe that they thought it unfair.

2448. Those nine labourers had been selected by you, or by some one at the dockyard?—By the shipwright officer, with my knowledge and consent.

2449. Is not that indirectly giving the patronage of the first entries to the shipwright officer; the shipwright officer names the labourers; he puts them to the work as sawyers, and then as soon as there is a vacancy among the sawyers, those men have a claim; the shipwright officer therefore has, in fact, had the patronage of the entries among the sawyers; is not that so?—No, no step of that kind takes place without the knowledge of the Superintendent. A note comes forward to the Superintendent proposing a man, but he cannot be appointed unless my signature is appended to it. A labourer who is working from time to time as a temporary sawyer, cannot be appointed a sawyer without reference to me.

2450. You say that when a man has been employed as a temporary sawyer he has a claim to become a sawyer?—He has, but those claimants cannot be confirmed as sawyers without the process I have described.

2451. Without your signature of approval?—No.

2452. Do you sometimes withhold your approval?—I have never had occasion to do so, that I remember.

2453. In what cases should you withhold your approval?—In cases of incompetency, or if there were several to select from, I should take the most fit, even though another might have worked the longest. Perhaps from the representations of the timber inspector or the master shipwright, I should judge which would be the most fit man; still it would be one of the men who had worked as a temporary sawyer who would go into the vacancy as an established sawyer.

2454. It would still appear that the shipwright officer has thereby the patronage of naming the labourers who shall be employed as sawyers?—Undoubtedly he has.

2455. Unless he chooses a man who is incompetent or unfit, the man whom he selects would at the proper time be promoted to be a sawyer?—Yes.

2456. Is not the appointment of a sawyer to be considered as a first entry, as well as the appointment to any other trade in the dockyard?—That rests entirely with the Admiralty.

2457. What

2457. What is your view on the subject; what do you consider to be first entries in the dockyard?—All new entries.

2458. Whether a person has entered as a labourer, or has entered as a sawyer, it is equally a new entry?—Quite so; if he has entered from out of the dockyard into the dockyard as a sawyer, it is a new entry.

2459. Do you consider it a new entry if a person has been employed as a labourer in the dockyard, and is made a sawyer?—Not a new entry to the dockyard; it is a change of entry in the books of the dockyard.

2460. Is the labourer you refer to a temporary labourer, or a permanent labourer?—There are two classes; there is a temporary labourer, and there is an established labourer.

2461. Are sawyers taken from the one class, or from the other, invariably?—Either from one or from the other.

2462. Therefore a temporary labourer might obtain the place of a permanent sawyer?—Quite so.

2463. Is there any advantage to the public in employing labourers instead of sawyers; do the labourers receive a lower rate of pay when they do the work?—The labourers are paid as sawyers while they are working as sawyers, and they fall back to their pay as labourers when they put the saw down.

2464. If you have 18 labourers doing the work of sawyers, or if there are 18 sawyers appointed by the Admiralty, as far as the public is concerned, that makes no difference; the wages are the same?—The wages are the same.

2465. The only advantage is, that where labourers are employed for a pressure of work, after that pressure of work is over, you may put them back as labourers when they have a diminution of their wages?—Yes.

2466. No labourer can be advanced to be a sawyer without the recommendation of the Superintendent?—Not without his sanction and approval.

2467. Mr. *Beckett*.] You stated that you make a return of the vacancies in the yard at the commencement of each month?—Yes.

2468. On the 26th of April the Admiralty sent down 25 appointments, and in consequence of those appointments the men who had been selected by the master shipwright of the yard were sent back to their original condition of labourers, though they had been working as sawyers?—That was the effect.

2469. How was the Admiralty to know that those appointments had been made in the yard; were the names sent up of the labourers who had been so selected by you, or with your approbation?—I have before stated that this was an interference with the practice which prevailed in the yard of selecting labourers who would ultimately become sawyers, if they were found fit after doing the duty temporarily, in cases arising from casualties. I read just now the effect of those appointments from the Minutes, which I have given; certain labourers who had been working as sawyers had to fall back in consequence of the appointment of certain men by the Admiralty order. It was not for me to remonstrate against an Admiralty order.

2470. I do not perceive how the Admiralty could know that those appointments had been made by you?—They are not actual appointments; it is not usual to report the cases of labourers who are working temporarily as sawyers.

2471. Lord *Hotham*.] Can you tell the Committee whether any appointments from the Admiralty followed your return in March, which you have just put in?—The appointments have been so frequent and so numerous, that it is not easy to say.

2472. You have stated that on the 26th of April you received an order for the appointment of 25 persons from the Admiralty?—Yes.

2473. I am anxious to know what number of vacancies your previous report had stated; you have not the report with you, but you stated that you could obtain it; you have read to the Committee your report of March, stating how many vacancies were borne upon that; I wish to know whether any appointments followed your report of March, or whether the 25 appointments which came down on the 26th of April, included the vacancies stated by you in March, and the vacancies in April also?—The documents will show, but I have not got them with me.

2474. The nine new entries of sawyers, I presume, were part of the 25 appointments which came down from the Admiralty, were not they, or were they in addition to the 25?—They were part of the 25 appointments.

2475. Sir *H. F. Davie*.] The Committee understand you to say that, in case

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of a sawyer falling sick, a labourer would be appointed to do his duty, and that when that man was restored, the other would return to his duty as a labourer, and would think his doing so was a matter of course?—Yes.

2476. You said that you considered it unjust, and it was so considered by the men, when labourers were appointed to act as sawyers, that fresh appointments should be made in their place, and they should have to return to their duty as labourers?—It is necessary to explain that those labourers who take the place of sick sawyers, or in reference to any other casualty, are appointed for that purpose; but though they fall back to the work of labourers, and the pay of labourers, the same men are again called on whenever they are wanted; it rests with a certain number of labourers to take the temporary duty; a man occasionally does duty over a period of many months, and finally, when an opening for an established sawyer arises, if his claim is the best, he becomes an established sawyer.

2477. *Chairman.*] What do you mean by return to the pay of labourers; did not you say that the pay of sawyers and of labourers was the same?—No; the pay of a labourer is 2 *s.*; the pay of a sawyer is much higher.

2478. Will you take this paper into your hand and state what it is?—It is a return from Devonport Dockyard, called for by the Admiralty, "showing all the promotions and advancements among the officers, men, and boys of every description which took place at Devonport Yard, between the 1st of March and the 31st of December 1852, together with the date and particulars of each case, distinguishing those which were not made in accordance with the Admiralty circular of the 27th of February 1847 and the established regulations of the service, and specifying in what respects those orders have been deviated from." Then there are columns representing the "date," "authority," "name," "quality," "whether the promotion or advancement were made in accordance with the Admiralty circular of the 27th of February 1847," "if not in accordance with the Admiralty order of the 27th of February 1847, in what respect those orders have been departed from."

2479. Will you look down the first column and tell me how many promotions there are in that column?—There are 15.

2480. Of those 15, are there any in contravention of the circular of 1847?—There are four, to the best of my knowledge.

2481. Which you state to be in contravention of the circular of 1847?—Yes.

2482. What are those cases?—Those are appointments of sawyers.

2483. Are they all four appointments of sawyers?—They are all four labourers appointed as sawyers; two are day-labourers, which is a strictly correct term, meaning temporary labourers; the two others being termed "labourers," must mean that they are on the established list; it is a common word in the dockyard, meaning that they are permanently on the dockyard books for pay, and that they cannot leave the yard without some gratuity or superannuation.

2484. Can you explain how those four promotions are in contravention of the circular of 1847?—As not coming through the Superintendent.

2485. Coming from the Admiralty, but not through the Superintendent?—Yes.

2486. Were those previous to the 19th of April?—Those were on the 14th of June, the 15th of June, the 28th of April, and the 26th of April.

2487. Will you turn to the next page, and state how many appointments are mentioned there?—There are 31 names on this side; there are 12 bracketted here as entered by a special Admiralty order, without reference to the Admiralty circular of the 27th of February 1847.

2488. Can you state to what class they belong?—Those are all sawyers.

2489. Will you go to the next page?—There are eight as the total number on this page; one sawyer is bracketted as appointed by a special Admiralty order.

2490. When was that?—The date of the Admiralty order is the 11th of June; he was entered on the 12th.

2491. It is stated in that column that those are in contravention of the circular of 1847; will you point to the paragraph of that circular which is contravened?—The spirit of the order at large is contravened; the statement is, "It is the intention of their Lordships to leave the admissions to the yard very nearly upon their present footing, taking in a certain number of apprentices annually, whose names are to be entered by Board order on the Superintendent's list, under the recommendation of the yard officers."

2492. The

2492. The admissions to the yard were to be upon the present footing, except as regards some regulation respecting apprentices?—Yes.

2493. Do you know what the "present footing" was in 1847 as to first admissions to the yard?—In this particular paragraph, of course, apprentices are referred to, principally to the shipwrights; we have apprentices at the smitheries as well as at the other departments, but that refers principally to shipwrights.

2494. The paragraph ends, "reserving the rest for candidates of their own selection"?—Yes.

2495. That means, that after they have taken a certain number of apprentices whose names are to be entered upon the Superintendent's list, they reserve the rest for candidates of their own selection?—Yes.

2496. So, generally, all the first entries in the yard the Admiralty reserve for their own patronage, do they not?—They have the power of doing so.

2497. Do not they practically do so?—No; it is more usually the result of petitions, chiefly from artificers in the yard, who have long worked in the yard with good conduct and character, and have petitioned for their sons to come in. I always forward those petitions when they are brought to me; they undergo, first, the test of inquiry of the officer under whom they have served, and very generally apprentices are obtained from that source.

2498. Do you think it a good plan to fill up a public department in that way, with families and their connexions?—Not entirely so; but it is impossible not to consider the claims of those who have worked ably and with merit, and who have been long in the yard; it is to be understood that no one who is unfit would be permitted to come in, and the examinations as to education or otherwise are carried to a great extent.

2499. Is there any other place to which labourers who have worked in the yard are raised, except that of sawyers?—Yes, there are many places.

2500. Will you state others?—For instance, there are labourers in the storehouses.

2501. Labourers in the yard are taken and made labourers in the storehouses, are they?—They are selected in that way, being men of good character and conduct.

2502. Are the labourers in the storehouses considered better appointments than those in the yard?—They have higher pay, and it is less laborious work.

2503. And it is a permanent situation?—Yes; there are two classes of labourers, stationed store-labourers and extra labourers.

2504. Do you consider the appointment of a person to be a labourer in the storehouses as a first entry?—No; if he is in the yard it is merely a change of entry.

2505. I suppose a person is occasionally appointed at once to that place from outside the yard?—Very rarely; I do not know of any instance.

2506. They are generally taken from the labourers in the yard?—Yes.

2507. Will you name other places to which labourers in the yard rise by their good conduct?—I do not recollect any other at this moment.

2508. You were pointing out to the Committee in what way those appointments of sawyers were a contravention of the Minute of 1847; as yet you have only pointed to the passage regarding apprentices; is there anything in the circular which definitely refers to such a case as that of labourers, who have been temporarily appointed as sawyers?—I do not think there is anything definite. I might refer to page 4, under the head of "Promotions."

2509. In page 4, it is stated, "Whether men find their way into the dockyards as apprentices or by Board's order, it is their Lordships' determination that, once there, they should learn to look to themselves alone for promotion"?—Yes.

2510. It is also stated, "My Lords will in all cases seek the advice and concurrence of the Superintendent before their choice is finally notified;" that, as a general statement, shows that in all cases where a selection for promotion takes place, the advice and concurrence of the Superintendent will be sought?—Yes.

2511. But, except phrases of that kind, there is nothing which definitely points out how the labourers who are employed temporarily in the yard are to look forward for promotion?—No.

2512. The circular ends by stating, "My Lords have removed everything that can warrant a suspicion that preferment will be the result, not of services, but of political favouritism"?—Yes.

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2513. That I understand you consider essential to the good discipline and working of the yard?—I do.

2514. When those men were appointed from labourers to be sawyers, did any rumour arise, or did you hear in any way, that political favouritism had been employed in that case?—The rumour was afloat that political influence was at work; but I can state no facts, for I know none.

2515. You know of nothing of the kind?—Nothing.

2516. Sir *P. Hall.*] Is the Committee to understand that you consider that the first entry into the yard alone is to be made by Admiralty order?—It can only be done by Admiralty order.

2517. A person having once entered, previously to the circular of the 19th of April 1852, he was under the provisions of the order of 1847?—Yes.

2518. Are day-labourers included in the general establishment of the yard?—They are.

2519. As fixed by the late Order in Council also?—As fixed by the established sheet, which I have here; ordinary labourers, 168; day-labourers, 173.

2520. Having once entered, they are included in the general establishment, and are subject, as regards promotion, to the circular of 1847?—Yes.

2521. I understand there is a difference between the day-labourers and the established labourers, and that that difference is, that the former are not entitled to superannuations?—Precisely.

2522. Is that the only difference which exists between them?—That is the only difference; the pay is the same.

2523. I wish to call your attention to the number of persons who have entered in the different months in the year; can you give any account to the Committee of the number which were entered in the different months of the year 1852?—No, I cannot; I can merely say, generally, that at certain periods in 1852 the entries were larger than they had previously been.

2524. Speaking generally, can you give the Committee any idea of the number which was entered in the first three months of the year; that is, January, February, and March 1852, and up to the 19th of April of that year, when the circular was issued?—I cannot, without reference to documents, which I have not here.

2525. Were the entries, subsequently to the issue of the circular of the 19th of April, larger than those which had taken place previously to that circular?—To the best of my recollection they were.

2526. By reference to any document at the Admiralty, could you give the Committee the number of entries which had taken place in each of the months during the year 1852?—There is no doubt that the information can be furnished.

2527. Lord *Hotham.*] Are you aware of its being the practice in the Coastguard not to employ men in the localities to which they respectively belong?—I have understood that that is so.

2528. Do you consider that that practice could be advantageously extended to the men employed in the dockyards?—It is difficult for me to answer that question; if there are good and fit men to be found in the neighbourhood of a dockyard, I can see no reason why they should not be employed.

2529. Do not you think, upon the same principle, that Coastguard men are not employed in their own neighbourhoods; it would be desirable, for instance, that a good man at Devonport should be employed at Portsmouth, and a good Portsmouth man at Devonport?—I do not think so; I think there are reasons why they should be employed in the neighbourhood.

2530. Are you aware that persons employed in connexion with the revenue, that is to say, officers of Customs, and Excise, and the Post-office, are precluded from either voting or interfering at elections?—I have understood so.

2531. Do you think that the good of the service would be promoted by that principle being extended to all the persons employed by the Government in the several dockyards?—I do; I have expressed that opinion in a letter which I have here.

2532. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Have you heard or read the substance of the evidence of Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Stafford before the Committee?—I have seen what the public papers state.

2533. Are you aware that in a letter to Sir Baldwin Walker, Mr. Stafford has stated the reason for issuing the circular of the 19th April 1852, as follows:—"I find that great dissatisfaction exists among my political friends, as to the present arrangement of appointments and promotions in the dockyards, as there is a very

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a very general impression that all those things are dispensed among our political opponents;" are you aware of that?—I was aware of that letter.

2534. Can you, of your own knowledge, as Superintendent since 1850 at Sheerness and Devonport, state whether there was any just ground for this complaint on the part of Mr. Stafford's political friends; I mean more particularly as to the appointments being dispensed among their political opponents?—I have no knowledge, as the Superintendent of Devonport Dockyard, of any facts which have come before me, or any proof that such has been the case; but I know of he dissatisfaction that was expressed at the supposed conduct of an officer in my yard, and his supposed interference with politics outside the yard.

2535. *Chairman.*] Do you know that from a complaint made to you?—A complaint not made by the Admiralty. I stated, yesterday, that one post had brought to me three private and confidential notes. I may say that one accused an officer in my yard of exercising an improper influence over a party in it. This is dated June the 19th, 1852, from Admiral Hyde Parker:—"My dear Seymour,—It is understood here that Mr. Edye has been making himself conspicuous in canvassing against the Government, among the workmen in the dockyard, and elsewhere. I think you had better inform him that, as an officer under the Government, his conduct is highly improper; more particularly if he is using his influence with the workmen of the dockyard, which I am informed is the case.—Yours sincerely, *Hyde Parker.*"

2536. What did you do upon receiving that letter from Admiral Hyde Parker, stating, that he had reason to believe that an officer in the yard was canvassing persons in that yard?—I immediately sent to that officer.

2537. You sent to Mr. Edye?—Yes; and questioned him as to the possibility of its being true; that officer admitted that he had been seen talking to Mr. Tufnell, in Fore-street, Devonport, and he also admitted, which I knew, that Mr. Tufnell and Sir John Romilly had sat in his pew at church. I told him it was a very imprudent act, and I also told him that a gallant officer, who was a candidate for the borough, had come to me on the Sunday morning, immediately before the service at church, and I had told him I was sorry that I could not permit him to sit with me in my pew in the Dockyard chapel; that he was a political candidate, and I would find him a seat elsewhere. I stated that, to point out that I thought he had acted imprudently, and I regretted that he had not put it out of the power of even a shadow of suspicion attaching to him.

2538. Where was this; was it in the church?—In the Dockyard chapel.

2539. Had you any attractive preacher at the Dockyard chapel, that Mr. Tufnell was so anxious to come there?—We had a very excellent man; I am not aware of the reasons why he was there.

2540. Did Mr. Edye admit that he had canvassed any man in the dockyard?—No, he positively denied it.

5241. Did you make any further inquiry to ascertain whether he had or not committed such a breach of the orders of the service?—In the course of what I shall say, it will come out that I did see him. This note also refers to the subject of political influence; it is from the Admiralty, August 31st, 1852, from Admiral Hyde Parker:—"My dear Seymour,—Sir Thomas Herbert has put the enclosed letter into my hand, requesting that I would forward it to you, from Sir George Berkeley. It certainly does appear that Mr. Edye is using some improper influence unknown to you. Yours truly." That led me again to inquire of the master shipwright, and again I was under the impression that it was not true.

2542. The letter is dated August 31st; that was after the election?—Yes; but it had reference to the Whig and Conservative voters in the yard.

2543. That he was using political influence in acting upon the Whig voters, and with injustice towards the Conservative voters?—I spoke yesterday of a case in which a joiner had to be recommended to be sent to the Portsmouth Yard to learn the use of a planing machine; we recommended a man whom I considered to be fit after having seen him, and inquired with respect to him, as I thought it right to do. The complaint came down that a Conservative who had been first recommended had been put aside by Mr. Edye, and his place taken by a Whig, a man of his own supposed politics. This is my answer to Admiral Hyde Parker:—"2d September 1852. My dear Admiral,—I return the private letter of Sir G. Berkeley, which has been read by me with regret and dismay at the additional proof it contains of a political interference with our dockyard establishments; that

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sets the proper maintenance of discipline, and, I may say, of justice, at defiance, and so weakens the hands of a Superintendent, that he can calculate on no permanence in any policy he may adopt towards his people; for, with extraneous interests to influence them, how can they be expected to look up to the Superintendent only as the head? The consequences of subjecting a public establishment to a private political partnership, are, I fear, not yet at an end, and it is not difficult to foresee that if the Government do not abate the evil, 'popular influence will.' Disfranchisement will probably be the remedy. With reference to Mr. Edye, he is better known at head quarters than described by me; his merits are those of an energetic practical shipwright of large experience. As to Burt's case, divest it of its political character, and it would never have been questioned. Pray pardon the freedom with which I have ventured to address you. Believe me, most truly yours, *M. Seymour*."

2544. Mr. Edye was master shipwright, was not he?—Yes.

2545. How long had he been master shipwright?—For many years; he is a well-known and a most esteemed and excellent officer; I cannot speak too highly of him in his public capacity.

2546. He was of different politics from the Government?—I have no reason to say he was; it was entirely rumour; I ought to say that after this matter occurred, he came to me once or twice on the subject, and he admitted that he had not only done that which I have already stated to the Committee, but that he had been once at a political meeting in the town of Devonport on the platform, but, as he said, merely to look at the fun; that was his expression, I think. I told him I was surprised that when he had previously been questioned by me, he did not mention that, but had allowed me to write the letter without knowing all the particulars of the case. The officers were without excuse, because previously to the election, I took from my table the Dockyard Instructions, and I read the article which refers to elections, pointing out to them that I did not know in the dockyard what the word "politics" meant, and I was desirous that the whole of them, as well as the yard itself, should not be tainted by any political bias.

2547. Holding the situation of master shipwright, Mr. Edye is one of the persons, is not he, who recommends to you parties for advancement and promotion?—Yes.

2548. Therefore, of all the situations in the yard, in which political bias would be injurious to the service, that is one of the three situations most important?—It is the most important.

2549. The situations of master shipwright, master attendant, and store-keeper?—Yes.

2550. Those three are the principal officers who sign the recommendations?—The principal officers, strictly speaking, include also the store-receiver.

2551. As far as signing the recommendation goes, those are the three persons?—They are the signing officers.

2552. If they are suspected of any political bias, that very suspicion is injurious to the fair-working of the system in the yard?—No doubt of it.

2553. Do you think it an objectionable system generally, that a person should be advanced in the same yard in which he has formerly served in a junior grade?—That depends upon the individual case; I should not say as a rule that it was injurious; it might be important to the yard that an individual should be retained in a particular department; it is a hard question to answer generally.

2554. It has been stated to the Committee by Sir Baldwin Walker, that it is a rule laid down, where it is possible to be carried out, that when a man is advanced after holding any junior grade, it is not desirable that he should return to the same yard; do you agree with that as a general principle?—As a general principle, perhaps I do.

2555. Had Mr. Edye served in a subordinate situation in Devonport Yard?—I have heard, be it spoken to his merit, that he entered Devonport Dockyard as an apprentice; he began his shipwright's life as an apprentice.

2556. Had he always remained, and risen in that yard?—No, he had not.

2557. Where had he been?—He had been to Portsmouth, and he had also been to Pembroke.

2558. When he was made master shipwright, he came back to the yard in which he had served as apprentice?—He was master shipwright at Pembroke, I have reason to believe, before he was master shipwright at Devonport; I have no recollection where he obtained his various promotions.

2559. Being

2559. Being master shipwright at Pembroke, he was transferred to be master shipwright at Devonport, where he had served as an apprentice?—Yes. I believe that to be the case; I think he entered the service as an apprentice at the Devonport Dockyard, and I know that he has a large acquaintance at Devonport, from having relatives there, and having lived there many years of his life.

2560. His having a large acquaintance and many relatives there, would be a reason which would make his political influence more injurious to the dockyard?—It would, if he thought fit to exercise it, but I repeat that I have no proof whatever of his having done so. I have stated to the Committee, that all I know of Mr. Edye's political tendencies, is what he did during that period in reference to the elections of 1852.

2561. Has not Mr. Edye a brother who is in the Surveyor's office?—I believe he has.

2562. Do you know what situation his brother holds?—That of Assistant Surveyor to the Navy; I believe that is his situation.

2563. Who is the first assistant at Devonport to Mr. Edye?—Mr. Turner.

2564. Is Mr. Turner a relation of Mr. Edye's?—He has married his daughter within the last year.

2565. Was Mr. Turner in a subordinate situation in the yard?—Mr. Turner served with credit, I believe, in the East Indies, for four or five years previous to his coming into Devonport Yard as assistant shipwright.

2566. Had he been previously in the yard?—I am unable to answer that question.

2567. You say, as to Mr. Edye, that you knew nothing which connected him with politics, more than admitting Mr. Tufnell to his pew in the Dockyard Chapel, and also, upon one occasion, going to the platform of a public meeting?—That was his statement to me of what he had done.

2568. Did you rely upon his statement?—Yes; and also he had been seen talking to Mr. Tufnell in the streets of Devonport.

2569. You do not know whether he walked through the streets of Devonport arm-in-arm with Mr. Tufnell?—I am unable to say that.

2570. Did you hear such a report?—I only heard his own statement; but it made a great stir at the time of those letters coming to me. I have another letter here which, if the Committee wish, I will read; this is from Captain Pelham: "Chester-square, October 16th, 1852. My dear Seymour,—First, was Mr. Edye chairman of some political meeting or committee against the Government men? Secondly, at the last election, were you acquainted with his being such? Thirdly, are you aware of his having taken any measures in opposition to the Government? The whole thing is perfectly indifferent to me, except that if the answers were that you knew nothing of what Mr. Edye had done, supposing that he had done anything, it would strengthen my arguments. I am not aware of what your private and county politics are, but I have most stoutly and very warmly staked my everything, that you have neither by word nor deed done anything against the Government party, or in any manner countenanced the Whig politics, since you have been in office under the Government. Yours truly, *Frederick Pelham.*" This is my reply. "18th October 1852. My dear Pelham,—In answer to your questions, 1st. Mr. Edye has never to my knowledge been chairman of any political meeting or committee against the Government men at the last election. 2. I have never been acquainted with or even suspected his being such. 3. I am not aware of his having taken any measures in opposition to the Government. If such had come to my knowledge, I should have considered it my duty immediately to have reported the fact to the Admiralty. Before the election began, I took an opportunity, at the morning meeting of principal officers, to read from the Dockyard Instructions, article 38, page 13, enforcing on the officers the propriety of a strict adherence to the spirit of it. It is, perhaps, necessary that I should inform you, that I took the appointment to Sheerness Yard, as I did the superintendence of this dockyard, pledged to a non-interference in local politics. I have conscientiously acted up to this condition. I sincerely thank you for having expressed yourself on my behalf as you have done. The grounds on which this kind office has been called for I will not trust myself to remark. I have no politics. Many years ago, the late Duke of Wellington, unsolicited, put me into the commission of the peace for the county of Hants, and the only occasion of my ever having exercised my right as a voter, was about 20 years since, on the Conservative side, for Lord Douro, then contesting North Hants. Daily experience

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strengthens my conviction that the exercise of political influence is quite incompatible with an honest and just performance of the public duties of a naval officer, more especially the head of a dockyard. Believe me most truly yours, *M. Seymour.*"

2571. You have read to the Committee and have been examined upon three or four letters asking you to inquire whether officers of the dockyard had used political influence against the Government candidate. Was any letter written to you to ask whether any dockyard officer had used political influence in favour of the Government candidate?—No, I do not recollect any; I understand the question to be whether any letter was written stating that any officer under my command had used influence in favour of the Government. I am not aware of any such letter being written to me.

2572. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] This alleged interference of Mr. Edye was about the time of the election?—It was during the period over which the election extended.

2573. My question had reference to a letter of Mr. Stafford's, dated the 2d o. April, about a month after his accession to office, in which he states as his reason for issuing the circular of the 19th of April, that his political friends complained that appointments and promotions were dispensed among their political opponents. I want to know whether, previously to that, you had reason to believe that anything of the kind had taken place?—I know of no ground whatever for that supposition.

2574. I presume you approved of the Admiralty circular of the 26th of September 1849?—I did; I fully approved of it.

2575. And you considered that circular an improvement on the order of the 27th of February 1847?—Decidedly.

2576. Although by the circular of the 19th of April 1852 the circular of 1849 was cancelled, still the order of 1847 remained in force?—In the form of it, but not in the spirit.

2577. You do not consider that, after the circular of the 19th of April 1852 was issued, the order of 1847 was strictly acted up to by the Admiralty?—No; I considered it a departure from the former arrangement and instructions.

2578. *Chairman.*] Is there an organist in the dockyard chapel?—There is.

2579. Did you recommend any one lately to fill that post of organist?—I recommended a man to fill the post of organist, who did not get the appointment; I have no reason to regret it, because the young man who is put in is a very good organist, and I have told him so. There were several candidates, and I did my best to get what I considered the fittest man appointed, and I never knew why he was not appointed; he was not appointed, however, but another man was. I cannot state what led to the appointment of the young man, but I repeat that experience has shown that he is a very fit person.

2580. Had the person whom you recommended any claim to the appointment?—The person I recommended was a shipwright in the yard, who had, on occasions when the previous established organist was unable to play, taken his place: and having done so, I found, on inquiry as to his character, for we wanted a man of character there, as he had to regulate the choir singing, that he was qualified, and I did recommend him, but he was not appointed.

2581. A young man has been appointed whom you approve of?—Whom I quite approve of.

2582. Did you hear the evidence of Captain Richards, in this room?—Yes.

2583. He told us that at Chatham there was what is called a patronage committee in that borough; have you such a thing as a patronage committee at Devonport?—I have reason to suppose that there is, but I know of no facts respecting it. I have never gone to the right or the left to ask any questions, nor to ascertain anybody's politics. I seldom go out of the dockyard, but the rumour has reached me frequently that such is the case, and I suppose it is so. Before I left Devonport I understood that a certain influence outside the dockyard had decided on the names of two gentlemen who were to come into the yard in the cases of two vacancies for clerks. Another circumstance occurred on the morning of the day I came away; in my early walk round the yard, a millwright came to me with a petition in his hand; after hearing his explanation and asking him why he came to me in reference to what was not in fact a vacancy, but only an expected one, he said, his apology was, that he knew they were hard at work "out of gate;" meaning that the party outside were preparing to dispose of a post which

was

was not yet vacant, but which they knew of, I suppose, through some agency of their own in the yard.

2584. In short, though you do not know it, you have some suspicion that there is a party outside who watch whenever opportunities occur for appointments in the yard?—I confidently believe that it is so.

2585. Mr. *Beckett.*] Have you any reason to believe that any parties employed in the yard are members of this committee?—No; if I had had any reason to believe it I should have stated it to the Admiralty long ago.

2586. Sir *B. Hall.*] Previously to the election of 1852 did you receive any communications from anybody connected with the Admiralty, in relation to that election?—Nothing publicly, except a letter with reference to allowing the men to leave the yard, which is the usual form of allowing them out. I have a letter in my hand from Mr. Stafford, of the date of June 30th. I had three or four notes from him, but they are unimportant ones; it is the only letter of his which refers at all to politics.

2587. That was before the election?—Before the election. "My dear Commodore Seymour,—A rumour has reached me that your secretary, Mr. Dyer, is canvassing most energetically for Tufnell and Romilly. I cannot judge of the truth of these rumours; but I am sure if Mr. Dyer is so doing, it is not only without your knowledge, but will, now you know it, be contrary to your wish." My reply to this note, on the 1st of July 1852, is "Dear Mr. Stafford,—The rumour that Mr. Dyer, my secretary, is canvassing for Tufnell and Romilly, cannot be true; should you continue to suppose it, furnish me with your authority, and I will push my inquiries further. I have discovered Mr. Robert Dyer, first lieutenant of Marines, on reserve half-pay, is an active member of Tufnell and Romilly's Stonehouse Committee. It is therefore possible that an inconsiderate conclusion has erroneously substituted my Mr. Dyer for the energetic canvasser of the same name. Truly yours, *M. Seymour.*"

2588. When you say there were no communications of a public nature sent to you from the Admiralty, or from any person connected with the Board of Admiralty, did you receive any communications of any kind from any member of the Government, or connected with the Government, or from any member of the Board of Admiralty, or connected with the Board of Admiralty, in relation to the election?—None whatever, to my recollection.

2589. Are you aware whether any canvassing took place in your yard, previously to the election?—I should say not; none to my knowledge ever took place, for I would not allow it as being contrary to orders.

2590. Do you know whether Mr. Stafford went round the yard with the Conservative candidates, or both of them?—Mr. Stafford came into the yard; he arrived on April the 12th in the "Retribution." I think he left on the 15th. Hearing of his arrival, I called on Mr. Stafford soon after noon, that is at 12.30 P. M., at Moorshed's Hotel. Mr. Stafford came into the yard at 11 o'clock on the 13th with Colonel Green and Mr. Grant; they went over some part of the yard, and in the afternoon, after luncheon, he went to the Victualling Yard and in the barge up through the harbour to the ordinary ships. I was with him a portion of that time, but I did not go to the Victualling Yard with him.

2591. Was he there again after that?—On the 14th he was at Keyham. I think I was with him on that day; on June the 22d he was there; he arrived in the "Black Eagle." I went off to the "Black Eagle," hearing that he had arrived at 7.30; that was on the 22d.

2592. Did anything take place on the 23d?—On the 23d I was with Mr. Stafford, Sir George Berkeley, and Sir John Maxwell. They all came into the yard, I think, together. I went to the millwright's shop with Mr. Stafford, to the north smithy, to the sail loft, the rigging house; and before the close of that visit I went with him to the Ticket-office; he expressed a wish to see the men pass through the yard, and I think we regulated our visits so that he might see this process of the men passing muster. I was there while the men went through.

2593. Are the Committee to understand that Mr. Stafford, yourself, Sir George Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell, those last two gentlemen being the Conservative candidates for the borough of Devonport, went round the yard together?—Yes.

2594. And that Mr. Stafford, and the two candidates, and yourself, stood together at the office where the men delivered their tickets?—Where they took their tickets to pass out of the yard.

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2595. So that the men would necessarily pass near them?—They saw me, and the whole of the parties I have stated.

2596. Did it never strike you, that Mr. Stafford, being Secretary to the Admiralty, and being there with the two Conservative candidates, it might give a notion to parties in the yard, that those candidates were in connexion with, and receiving some extent of the sanction of yourself as Superintendent of the yard, and Mr. Stafford, the representative of the Admiralty?—Never; I went with Mr. Stafford as I should go with any Secretary of the Admiralty, or any member of the Admiralty, who came into my dockyard; if my duties permitted me to leave my office I should go with him as a matter of respect and of duty. I did not halt to ask Mr. Stafford whether the gentlemen with him had any right to come in or not; no canvassing took place, nor would I permit it; no political word of any kind whatever was dropped, and I am bound to tell the Committee that I had not for a moment in my own thoughts any reference whatever to politics.

2597. Did Mr. Stafford ask you to go round with him?—No, there was no request; I felt it right to go with him, as Secretary to the Admiralty; it was my duty to do so.

2598. *Chairman.*] During the time you have been Superintendent of the dockyard has it frequently occurred that the Secretary of the Admiralty has come down to the dockyard without any of the Lords of the Admiralty?—No, never; it is the only instance I am aware of.

2599. This is the only instance you are aware of of a Secretary of the Admiralty coming down unaccompanied by the Lords of the Admiralty?—It is the only instance that I can remember.

2600. You have put in the monthly return of March 1852, in which there is a notice respecting a vacancy for six joiners; have you ever employed shipwrights on joiners' work?—Rarely; on the contrary, we employ joiners on shipwrights' work occasionally.

2601. Is not it objectionable to employ joiners on shipwrights' work?—It arises out of an accidental circumstance of a pressure of one description of work over the other; the work is a good deal mixed; for instance, joiners and shipwrights are working together at a ship at the same time, and the work of one falls into the work of the other; towards the end of the shipwright's work it becomes joiner's work.

2602. You heard the evidence of Captain Richards respecting the entry of shipwrights' apprentices, stating that the apprentices had been entered without proper competition. At your yard, were the shipwrights' apprentices entered at the usual period of the year, and after the usual competition?—There were some isolated entries which were not usual; I cannot give the precise dates, but I think towards the close of the year 1852, there were five or six such entries, or some number of that kind.

2603. Did they go through the usual trial before they were entered?—Yes, that was a matter of course, they could not be entered without.

2604. Were they tried with all the others?—No; I have already stated that they were isolated entries, which did not come in by a general order including the whole; it is usual to send all down in the month of January.

2605. *Chairman.*] The Committee understand that a number of candidates are tried together and the best are chosen?—Yes.

2606. In the way in which they are entered, when they are sent as isolated cases, the same trial is not made?—They come in as fit.

2607. You tried them, but you did not by that means get the best out of a certain number?—No.

2608. It was also represented by Captain Richards, that there was an injustice done to men in the yard who usually have the advantage of letting their sons compete for those places?—Yes.

2609. Is that your opinion also?—It is.

2610. That entry of shipwrights, in isolated cases, is a circumstance to which you would object for the good of the service?—Yes; it is not of sufficient importance to lead to an official objection on the part of the Superintendent.

2611. Do not you think it a bad practice?—Yes; undoubtedly; any deviation from what is usual is so.

2612. You think it a deviation from the regular course, and a deviation for the worse?—Yes.

2613. You mentioned Mr. Stafford's arrival at your yard; as he was new to the

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the Admiralty did he seem to have come there in order to consult upon the general management of the dock-yard?—I suppose he did; I am not able to state why he came; I have no recollection of the particular point of duty on which he came; I suppose he came to make himself acquainted with the yard.

2614. He went round the yard with you?—He went to the places I have already enumerated, on the occasion I have referred to.

2615. Have you in your yard one of Nasmyth's hammers?—We have three at work.

2616. Have you ever tested men taken from the private trade to see how they worked Nasmyth's hammers compared with the men in the dock-yard?—No; we have had accounts from other yards of the produce of their hammers, and at the same time a report has been made of the produce of our hammer, and I have no reason to suppose that it was behind what other hammers produced in other yards, to the best of my recollection.

2617. With what yards did you compare yours?—With all the yards which have hammers in them; Chatham and Portsmouth particularly.

2618. And with Woolwich?—Yes.

2619. And you think, as far as your recollection serves you, that the work done under Nasmyth's hammer in your yard is equal to the work done in the Woolwich Yard?—Yes; the Committee will understand when I state that the Woolwich Yard is a factory on a much larger scale than ours; when I speak of the work of the hammer, we are almost limited to bloom-iron: that is, working up old iron into bloom for despatch to Chatham Yard to be re-manufactured; we are not precisely on the same footing at Devonport as they are at Woolwich and Chatham with respect to the manufacture of iron.

2620. You were satisfied, as I understand, with the working of those hammers in your yard?—Quite so, to the extent to which we have gone.

2621. And they were managed by men who had been brought up to the management in the yard; were not they?—In the Devonport Yard they were.

2622. Do you know when the hammers were first introduced into the Devonport Yard?—I am unable to state the precise date.

2623. Was it in 1847 or 1848?—About that time, I think.

2624. With regard to the apprentices, were any of the apprentices who were entered the sons of men in the yard, when you had those cases of entry?—I am unable to state; very probably there were, but I cannot say.

2625. Do you consider, taking an isolated case of an apprentice, and entering him in that way, instead of entering him after a general competition with all the others who are candidates, to be a breach of the spirit of the circular of 1847?—I suppose that it is.

2626. Had there been any order towards the close of 1851, that new apprentices should be entered into the yard in 1852?—That is frequently the order at the close of the year, which has regard to the entries in January. There was some order of that kind, but I do not recollect the numbers it spoke of; I think I have a recollection of an order with regard to the number of entries; in fact, I remember the circumstance of its reducing the numbers that were to be entered very much.

2627. You have spoken of apprentices being entered in isolated cases; do you remember at whose recommendation any of those entries were made?—That I am not able to speak to; possibly some by myself; a vast number of petitions go up, many more than can possibly be attended to. To many petitions my name is attached as approving; whether they are ultimately attended to I am not able to say without reference to the documents.

2628. You are not aware whether or not the Surveyor of the Navy had recommended that an apprentice should be entered?—No, I am not able to say.

2629. Was the master smith at Devonport a man who had been selected from the private trade, or a man who had been brought up in a yard?—When I went to the Devonport Yard there was no master smith, the place was vacant; the man was afterwards appointed, as having been selected from the private trade.

2630. The master smith at Devonport has been selected from the private trade?—The man who is there now.

2631. Is it under his management that the Nasmyth hammers have been so well worked?—There is no great deviation in the mode of working the hammers since he has been there; there are two smitheries; he has the control over the whole.

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2632. When was he appointed from the private trade?—In December 1851.

2633. What was his name?—Ainslie.

2634. He was appointed from the private trade?—Yes.

2635. Had you recommended that that person should be brought in from the private trade?—I had no voice in the matter; the yard was without a master smith, and I believe him to have been chosen or recommended as a man fit for the situation by the master smith of Woolwich Dockyard.

2636. You went to the yard in November 1851, and in December 1851 a master smith, from the private trade, was appointed to Devonport?—Yes.

2637. Are you aware, whether or not an engineer officer from the private trade had had charge of the smitheries before the master smith was appointed?—Yes, he had; they were under him; I merely saw him there one day.

2638. This good management occurred under two men who had the charge of the smitheries, both of whom had been taken from the private trade?—I do not know the origin of Mr. Atherton; I think the order for his removal was in the yard when I went to take the command of it. He was there for a day or two, and then went to Woolwich; after that, it appears that Mr. Ainslie was appointed in December 1851, on probation, because we reported on him, I think, six months after he had been in the yard.

2639. You reported upon him after his probationary trial for six months?—Yes.

2640. And this was the master smith, who was taken from the private trade, who was so successful in the management of Nasmyth's hammers?—It was under his management.

2641. You spoke about the appointment of an organist; did you think that the appointment of an organist came under the Admiralty circular of 1847?—As setting aside the approval, or recommendation, of the Superintendent.

2642. Did you conceive that the Admiralty circular of 1847 would include within it such an appointment as that of organist, or did you imagine it to refer to artificers and officers in the dockyard?—I understood it to include everybody.

2643. So far as the appointment of organist goes, which you have referred to lately, there has been a departure from that circular?—Yes.

2644. You mentioned that you knew there were patronage committees in the borough of Devonport; are there two local committees; has each side its patronage committee?—I imagine it is so.

2645. When you heard the rumour of something which the patronage committee was moving about, do you know which patronage committee it was; was it the Whig patronage committee, or the Conservative patronage committee?—Undoubtedly the Whig patronage committee on the occasion to which I have referred.

2646. You stated that the master smith was confirmed in his appointment in July 1851?—I suppose so; it was six months after his entry.

2647. Do you know what the reports of the officers were, as to his qualification?—They were good. I approved of their reports, which went forward, and in consequence of that he was confirmed.

2648. Who is the organist in this chapel of which we have heard?—I cannot recollect his name at this moment.

2649. Do you know where he came from?—Yes; he is from the neighbourhood of Devonport.

2650. Do you know whether the patronage committee took an interest in the organist?—I am unable to say. I before stated that I had no knowledge of how the appointment was made.

2651. You were for a time at Sheerness Yard?—Yes.

2652. While you were there, were any promotions made which were contrary to the circular of 1847?—I have no recollection of any.

2653. Is it your impression that you were satisfied with the course that promotion and advancement in your yard were taking, while you were there?—Yes, I was.

2654. At Devonport, till April 1852, when you complained of the course pursued, are the Committee right in supposing that you were satisfied with the course of advancement and promotion there?—Quite so.

2655. Do you think there are cases in which it is desirable to introduce men from the private trade, such as the case of the master smith, who was introduced at Devonport?—Decidedly.

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2656. You think it would be unwise on the part of the authorities of the Admiralty to preclude themselves from taking advantage of the talent and skill of men brought up in the private trade?—Certainly.

2657. Although admitting them into the yard does to a certain extent stop promotion in the yard?—It does interfere with it; but it is a necessary interference.

2658. It is a necessary interference for the good of the service?—I consider it so.

2659. In the case of the organist, you had a competent man in the yard?—Yes; I had a man whom I thought fit, and he was of very good character, and he had played the organ occasionally, during the casual absence of the regular organist.

2660. Did he play the organ, do you think, on the day Mr. Tufnell was there?—I am not able to say.

2661. You referred to the case of a Mr. Burt, who was put aside; what was the nature of that case?—He was the occasion of the correspondence which I have read.

2662. What was Burt?—Burt was a joiner, and Oram belonged to the joiner's department also. By an Admiralty order we were ordered to choose an individual out of the joiners' department, to send to the Plymouth Yard to learn the use of the planing machine; a man was chosen, whom I saw, after questioning the master shipwright, and was satisfied that he was a fit man; a complaint was afterwards made by another man of the name of Burt that he had been displaced, having been distinctly first promised by the master shipwright that he should go, but being afterwards displaced by Oram. I apprehend that Oram unfortunately bore the name of a political agent, or rather who is said to be a political agent, and that he was a Whig voter.

2663. He suffered from having the same name?—Yes, he unfortunately was displaced by a man who was in the other interest.

2664. When did this happen as to Oram?—This happened quite at the latter end of August 1852.

2665. Will you state a little more particularly the case of Oram and Burt?—I have simply to state that Oram's recommendation to the Admiralty met with an objection.

2666. What was Oram?—Oram was in the joiners' department.

2667. Was his one of the two names sent up?—We were ordered specially to select a man who was fit to send to learn the use of the planing machine, and his name was sent up. I inquired into the case as particularly as I could, and the result of my inquiry was, that we had selected a fit man. I believe Oram was the best man; but unfortunately, as I have described, he happened to be in the interest of a party adverse to the Government influence of the day.

2668. And the consequence was he lost this opportunity of promotion?—He lost this opportunity of promotion.

2669. Sir *B. Hall.*] Is this the case that Oram, being a joiner, his name was sent up; some representations were made that he was adverse to the Government; but he made a complaint, and subsequently Burt was substituted for Oram?—Yes; I have reason to think that Burt's political friends outside the dockyard moved that complaint. They complained that the master shipwright had used undue influence in putting him aside after having promised him; it was that circumstance that led to this letter, marked "Private and confidential."

2670. Lord *Hotham.*] After having promised Burt?—Yes, Burt said so; but with respect to that appointment, I repeat I think that Oram was the best man.

2671. *Chairman.*] Was Oram appointed at last?—The machine is not yet put up in the yard. Oram has been to Portsmouth Yard to learn how to work the machine, and when the machine is put up in the yard Oram will work it.

2672. The question was not who should be appointed, but who should be sent to learn the trade?—With a view to work the machine.

2673. Who was sent to Plymouth?—Oram; the complaint arose from Burt stating that he had been displaced, after being promised by the master shipwright, by Oram, whose name had gone forward.

2674. Did Burt state to you that he had been promised?—Yes, I went into the whole inquiry, and heard all he had to say in the presence of the master shipwright.

2675. Lord *Hotham.*] Did it appear that he had been promised?—No; he misunderstood

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misunderstood something that had been said. I have no reason to suppose that he had been promised; the master shipwright, in fact, had no right to promise him.

2676. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that the master shipwright had or had not been influenced, on this occasion, by any political motives?—It is impossible for me to say whether he was or was not; I believe not. I have already stated that I do not think, since I have been in the yard, there has been any such influence.

2677. You agree in thinking that Oram was the best man?—Yes, certainly.

2678. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] I wish to recall attention for one moment to the vacancies filled up on the 26th April 1852; I understand you to have said that you did not send up any names when you reported the number of vacancies, not thinking that any vacancies would be filled up without consulting you; am I right in that?—Yes, we usually know; we are to judge whether it is necessary to fill up those vacancies; if we consider it necessary, we should do so, if not, the paper which goes forward with the vacancies is acted upon or not, at the discretion of the Surveyor, who considers whether it is necessary to send more down or not.

2679. The circular of 1849 being still in force, it was to the Surveyor that you communicated the vacancies?—It must have been so, being previously to the cancelling of the order.

2680. *Chairman.*] When you first went to Devonport in 1851, did you suggest anything respecting the appointment of a master smith?—No.

2681. How did the situation of the master smith then stand; a person from the private trade was afterwards appointed?—I imagine it had been decided on before I took the command of the yard; no memorandum of any description went from me on the subject. I found the chief engineer there, who was removed, and Mr. Ainslie was afterwards appointed as master smith, there being a vacancy for one.

2682. You did not consider whether or not there was any person in the yard competent with Mr. Ainslie for the position of master smith?—No.

2683. Was the master smith suspected of taking any part in politics?—No, certainly not; he was a stranger, and came from a distance.

2684. Is the present organist a partisan at all?—No; he is quite a young man, about 18 or 19.

2685. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears by a Parliamentary Paper, 672, that a letter was addressed, on the 10th of May 1852, to the Duke of Northumberland, then First Lord of the Admiralty, by Sir Baldwin Walker, who was Surveyor; that letter appears to contain several charges, or representations, which were made to his Grace; one of those is, that vacancies had been filled up which were not necessary, and that men had been advanced without reference to merit; do you coincide in that opinion so far as your yard is concerned?—As far as the instances go which I have stated, the sawyers and labourers, which I have enumerated in a former answer.

2686. In those cases have any vacancies been filled up which it was unnecessary to fill up?—It is difficult to say that they were not necessary, because they were according to the establishment, and if the Admiralty authorities think fit to fill those vacancies, it is for them to do it.

2687. Did you consider it necessary, you being Superintendent of the yard?—No; when I consider it necessary to draw the attention of the Admiralty or the Surveyor to particular vacancies in particular departments, where we are suffering for the want of those vacancies being filled up, I do so; but, in the absence of that statement, the sheet of vacancies goes forward, and any orders which come down to enter people are complied with.

2688. Were vacancies filled up in your yard which you, as Superintendent of the yard, did not think it necessary should be filled up?—I cannot say that they were.

2689. *Chairman.*] When persons come to your yard to be entered, do you require them to produce a letter from the Admiralty, or a warrant?—They come with an order from the Admiralty, but, in many instances, the order comes with the man's name, but without the address of the party, thereby leading the Superintendent to infer that the order had been sent to some other party, with an inclosure to the individual labourer, or as the case may be, the individual who is to be entered, naming the party to be entered.

2690. If you had received a letter directing you to admit Mr. Ainslie, for example,

example, to be master smith, should you have considered that of itself a sufficient authority for admitting him when he came to the yard?—Not unless he brought his letter of appointment also. Commodore *M. Seymour*, R. N. 6 May 1853.

2691. You would require him also to bring an appointment?—Yes.

2692. In the form of a warrant?—In the form of a communication from the Admiralty to say that an order had been forwarded to admit him into the yard.

2693. You would not think a mere letter from the Admiralty, telling you to admit him, sufficient, even where you had no doubt about the identity of the man?—No, we require the individual to bring the authority.

2694. Is there any regular order upon that subject?—I am not aware of any regular order; it is the general practice.

2695. Is there any case in which a man has come to you for admission, and has been refused from not having the proper document with him?—There may have been some doubt about a labourer or two, but I have no recollection of any instance where there was not some authority; sometimes we have had a wrong name put into the Admiralty order, or the wrong Christian name; but I think in every instance, I may say, the individual brings some authority.

2696. By some authority do you mean an Admiralty warrant?—I mean the necessary Admiralty authority.

2697. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Are you aware whether any of those men who were nominated by the Admiralty without consulting you, were voters?—I think, to the best of my recollection, two or three were, and others were supposed to be relatives of voters outside; I state that from some questions which have been put by me with reference to the Committee about to sit on the election for Plymouth, that obliged me to ask these questions.

2698. Your impression is, that of those men two or three were voters, and the rest were relations of voters outside the yard?—I believe so.

2699. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you recollect the names of any of the parties?—I cannot mention the names.

2700. *Chairman.*] You said you did not recollect any one presenting himself at the dockyard without a proper warrant, was not there the case of a storekeeper who presented himself there without a proper warrant?—I have no recollection of it.

2701. It might have occurred and you might have forgotten it?—I think I should have remembered such a case if it had occurred. I wish to say that the entry of the organist was not a violation of the circular order.

2702. Is that because you consider it a first entry?—It was a first entry.

2703. Are the Committee to understand you to mean that you did not pass over any man in the yard who had a claim to that appointment?—I did not; there were several candidates.

2704. A man in the yard had performed the duty of organist, but you did not think that gave him any essential claim to the place?—No; I am anxious to correct what I stated before on that subject.

[The Witness withdrew.

Mr. *Samuel Triscott*, called in; and Examined.

2705. Sir *B. Hall.*] DO you hold any office?—I am Storekeeper of the Royal William Victualling Yard at Stonehouse. Mr. *S. Triscott.*

2706. When were you appointed?—In May 1851, I think.

2707. By whom?—By Sir Francis Baring.

2708. Did you hold any previous office?—I previously held the situation of agent of the Royal Hospital at Stonehouse. I had came from Bermuda.

2709. Were you at Devonport during the last election?—I was.

2710. Were you on the hustings during the election?—No.

2711. Never?—Never. I was not near Devonport on the day of the election. I was at Stonehouse, but I did not go into Devonport.

2712. Were you at Plymouth during the election?—I was.

2713. Were you on the hustings at Plymouth?—Mr. Mare gave me a ticket to go to his hustings just to look on, and I got a standing-place for a few moments, but I was so pressed that I did not stay long.

2714. Were you on the hustings at Plymouth with Mr. Mare?—I was on the hustings at Plymouth.

2715. Did you receive a ticket from Mr. Mare?—I received a permission from him;

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him; they could not go in without tickets. I tried to get in several other booths, but the place was very much thronged; in fact I omitted to ask for a ticket, and, could not get into any booth; at last, however, I got an admission from Mr. Mare.

2716. Mr. Mare was the Conservative candidate for the borough of Plymouth?—He was.

2717. At what time in the morning did you go to the hustings?—I really do not know; perhaps 12 or one o'clock. I do not recollect what time it was exactly. I had a great deal of duty at the time, and I think was rather late.

2718. Was that on the day of the nomination?—It was on the day of the nomination.

2719. Were you there afterwards, during the election?—Not upon the hustings; to the best of my recollection I was only on the hustings once.

2720. Were you in or near any of the poll-booths during the election?—I do not even know where the poll-booths were; I was not near either; I never saw one.

2721. In Plymouth?—In Plymouth.

2722. Nor Devonport?—Nor Devonport; I was not at the election at all in Devonport; I did not go into Devonport during the election there.

2723. You are not a voter, are you?—I am not a voter.

2724. Did you ever canvass any parties?—I never canvassed any parties.

2725. Did you ever speak to any voters, in regard to their votes?—On one or two occasions, when they have spoken to me, which occasionally occurred, I have answered their questions.

2726. Had you any conversation with a man of the name of Edgcombe, a labourer in the victualling yard?—Not to my recollection.

2727. Did you never speak to Edgcombe about his vote?—Not except he spoke to me.

2728. That is not an answer to my question. Did you ever speak to Edgcombe about his vote?—I do not recollect Edgcombe; he is not under me; he is not in my department, and I do not know him. I know there is a man of that name, but I do not know him personally.

2729. You do not know that you ever spoke to him?—I do not remember ever speaking to him; I may have spoken to him, but I do not recollect him by the name of Edgcombe.

2730. Do you know a person of the name of Brown, in the cooperage?—No; there is a Brown, a policeman, but not in the cooperage.

2731. Do you know a person of the name of Brown?—I do.

2732. Did you ever speak to him about his vote?—Never; he spoke to me; he followed me one night when I was coming in, and asked me to get his son an apprenticeship, which would be vacant somewhere about this time; I told him, that if he had anything to request of me for his public services, and he would come to my office and state it, I would give every consideration that his services entitled him to.

2733. Did you ever speak to Brown about his vote?—Never; I did not know, when he spoke to me about his son, that he was a voter.

2734. During the election, or about the time of the election, had you received any letter of an appointment of a man as policeman in the victualling yard?—Never.

2735. Captain Rich, I believe, was the Superintendent, was not he?—He was.

2736. Did Captain Rich ever speak to you about your conduct in regard to the election?—Not officially. I was one day in his office, as I was every day on duty, and he mentioned that persons had spoken of my having some bias. I said, "If you will have the goodness to name the parties, or order an inquiry, I shall be very glad to defend myself; I have not done what has been insinuated."

2737. Did he never say anything to you in reference to your course of conduct in regard to the election?—Never, except in this instance; he said he had heard that I had taken a part; I said, "I have not taken any part, Captain Rich; I shall be quite ready to meet any person who says so;" and the matter dropped. He did not send for me; it was when I happened to go to him on duty; the election was talked of, and he said, "Triscott, they say you are a Conservative, and taking a part." I said, "Who says so?" He said, "Well, it is the common report, and I advise you not to do so." I said, "I shall not do so."

2738. Did

2738. Did Captain Rich say that to you when you were alone, or in the presence of others?—I think his clerk was there; I am not certain of that.

2739. Was there a person of the name of Armstrong there?—I do not know whether he was or not.

2740. Was Mr. Simpson there?—No, there was no person of that name there.

2741. What is the name of the chief clerk?—Jameson.

2742. Was he there?—I think he must have been there; I am not certain whether he was there; they go in and out, but it is likely that he was there.

2743. Did he not remonstrate with you about the course you were taking as to the election?—He only made the remark that I have stated.

2744. Nothing more?—No, nothing more; he did not send for me. I went to him on other official duty, and he took the opportunity of remarking upon the reports which were in circulation.

2745. Do you mean to tell the Committee that you took no part in the election, either for Devonport or Plymouth?—I took no part whatever; I studiously avoided taking a part.

2746. Not in canvassing?—Not in canvassing; I never canvassed. I have answered questions when the men have come to me in my progress round the yard. Men have spoken to me, hoping that I would remember them when circumstances would allow me to recommend them in my position. Others have spoken about their votes. I said I had nothing to do with the voting; they must vote according to their consciences. I would not influence any man.

2747. Did you see either of the candidates for either of the boroughs?—I saw them accidentally.

2748. Did you have any communication with any of them with reference to the election?—Never.

2749. You never spoke to either of them?—I never spoke to either of them, except mere common conversation which might occur, nor did either of them ask me to interest myself on their behalf.

2750. You had no conversation with them as to their prospect of success in the election, or anything of that kind?—It is possible that that may have taken place.

2751. What did take place?—Merely the ordinary conversation, which, if I met either of the candidates, would naturally take place; it was very seldom that I met either of the candidates. Sir George Berkeley was never in my house in his life.

2752. Did you render them any assistance directly or indirectly, or their committees, in reference to the election?—In no way whatever; I rendered them no assistance; I could not do so; I was applied to do so by committee-men, and by the chairman of the committee.

2753. Who was the chairman who asked you?—The chairman of Sir George Berkeley's committee, Mr. Cole; he was the Conservative agent; he asked me if I could in any way speak to the voters; I said, "No."

2754. What is Mr. Cole; a solicitor?—No; Mr. Cole is a tradesman; a bookseller and stationer.

2755. He asked you to speak to the voters?—Yes.

2756. *Chairman.*] Did he mean the voters in the Victualling-yard?—In the Victualling-yard.

2757. Do you know how many voters there are in the Victualling-yard?—I cannot state their number.

2758. You can state pretty nearly, perhaps?—I think there are from 19 to 22 or 23; I cannot be certain of the number; I do not know them even by sight, many of them.

2759. You could not have furnished him with a list of the voters if he had wished it?—I have not one myself, nor do I know, on my honour, how many voters there are there now.

2760. Sir *B. Hall.*] Is there a gentleman of the name of Glencross there?—There is.

2761. He was chairman of one of the committees?—He was the general chairman of the committee.

2762. Was not Admiral Morris chairman?—I do not know whether he was chairman or not; I understood Mr. Glencross was the chairman, but I did not know him by sight before that time.

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2763. Admiral Morris took an active part in the election, did not he?—He did take a very active part.

2764. Was not there a Dr. Butter, who was chairman of the committee?—He was chairman at Plymouth.

2765. Do you know persons of the name of Beer and Smith?—Yes, I know Beer and Smith.

2766. They took an active part in the election, did not they?—They did; they are agents in fact.

2767. Do you remember Mr. Stafford's arrival at Devonport, about the 22d of June?—I do not know the date; I know he arrived somewhere about that time.

2768. Do you remember the dinner which was given by Mr. Stafford at Moorshed's hotel the following day; were you present?—I was present at the dinner; the Commander-in-chief was there; Commodore Seymour was there.

2769. Was not Mr. Glencross the chairman of the committee there?—I do not remember whether he was or not.

2770. You do not know?—I do not recollect; I will not say that he was not; but my impression is that he was not there.

2771. Was Admiral Morris there?—Admiral Morris was there.

2772. Was Sir John Maxwell there?—I do not think Sir John Maxwell was there.

2773. General Berkeley was not there?—No.

2774. You do not know whether Sir John Maxwell was there?—I think he was there; one does not remember all the dinner parties that you sit at.

2775. There was not such a great number there, was there?—Not a very large number; I think 10 or 12.

2776. Do you mean to say that you do not know whether the Conservative candidate was there or not?—I think he was, but I am not certain; I could not swear he was there if I were called on to do so; I believe he was there.

2777. Was John Beer there?—Yes.

2778. Was Henry Smith there?—Yes.

2779. Those are the two agents?—I do not know that Smith is an agent.

2780. You said just now that they were the two agents?—Smith has been a political agent, but I understood that Mr. Beer was the agent now; I know very little of Smith as an agent.

2781. Beer was an agent?—He was; but I am not certain that Smith was on this occasion.

2782. Smith had been the agent for the Tory party?—Smith had been the agent for the Tory party before.

2783. Dr. Butter was there?—Yes.

2784. He was chairman of Mr. Mare's committee?—Yes.

2785. Were there any other parties there who took an active part in the election?—None that I know of.

2786. Try and recollect?—If you will give me any names I will tell you.

2787. I ask you the question, were there any other gentlemen there who took an active part?—I do not know of any but those I have named.

2788. Just now you did not recollect whether Sir John Maxwell was there?—I believe he was there, but I could not swear that he was there.

2789. Tell me any gentlemen who were there who took an active part in the election?—I am not aware of one; I do not recollect one who took an active part except those who have been named; if you will mention any of them I will endeavour to tell you.

2790. Tell me who were there that you knew; it was not a very large party?—The Admiral was there, and I think the Commodore; I am not certain of that; there was Admiral Morris. I think Captain Walker, but I did not know him before, and I had to inquire his name; I think he was there, Mr. Baker.

2791. What is Mr. Baker?—Mr. Baker is the son of the contractor for the Keyham Works.

2792. What is Captain Walker?—I do not know; I believe he is a Captain in the Navy; he was called Captain Walker, and I had to ask his name.

2793. It appears that Sir John Maxwell was there; Admiral Morris, the chairman of the committee at Stonehouse was there?—I do not think Admiral Morris was the chairman of the committee at Stonehouse. I think Mr. Cole was chairman of the committee at Stonehouse; I think Admiral Morris was not. I believe Mr. Cole was the chairman.

2794. Admiral Morris took an active part in the election?—Yes.

2795. And he was there?—Yes; he was absent during about two weeks before the election.

2796. Mr. Glencross, who was the chairman at Devonport, was there?—Yes.

2797. John Beer, the present agent was there; Henry Smith, who had been the former agent was there, and Dr. Butter, the chairman of Mr. Mare's committee, at Plymouth, was there?—Yes, they were there.

2798. Were you frequently absent from the yard during last year?—I was three months absent on duty.

2799. What months were those?—July, August, and September.

2800. What other yards did you visit?—I visited Sheerness in 1851 for a day; I went there to visit Commodore Seymour, who is my friend; I was at Woolwich Dockyard. Those are the only ones I was at.

2801. Were you at Deptford?—At Deptford Victualling Yard, I was on duty.

2802. Were you at Chatham?—Not at Chatham; I was never at Chatham Dockyard, except in 1839 for a few hours, but never since.

2803. You were not at Chatham Dockyard last year?—No.

2804. Were not you very frequently in the lobby of the House of Commons, last year?—Yes, I was frequently there.

2805. Had not you a great deal of conversation with Members of the House of Commons, in reference to the elections?—Yes, I answered any questions that were asked me about the elections.

2806. That is not an answer to my question?—I had conversations.

2807. Had you conversations with Mr. Stafford?—Not with Mr. Stafford.

2808. Never?—I had no conversation with him.

2809. Had not you a conversation with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie in reference to the elections?—I think I had with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie.

2810. Had you not a conversation with Major Beresford in reference to the elections?—No; I do not recollect that I had any conversation with Major Beresford about the elections.

2811. Try again?—I had conversations with Major Beresford.

2812. If you do not choose to answer questions which you can answer, I must call the attention of the Chairman to it. Had you conversations with Major Beresford in or near the Lobby of the House of Commons, in reference to the elections?—I had conversations with him, but I do not know whether in reference o the elections; I cannot remember what my conversations with him were about.

2813. Do you mean that you never spoke to Major Beresford with reference to any election?—I have spoken to him in reference to an election.

2814. In reference to what election have you spoken to him?—I think it might be Plymouth.

2815. Did not you speak to him in reference to the election at Woolwich?—I dare say I did.

2816. Did not you speak to him in reference to the election at Greenwich?—That is the same election.

2817. But particularly with regard to Greenwich?—Not that I know of, particularly, with regard to Greenwich.

2818. Did not you speak to Major Beresford in reference to Mr. Rolt's election for Greenwich?—I do not recollect speaking to him about Mr. Rolt's election.

2819. Never?—Never, that I recollect.

2820. Did you speak to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie about Mr. Rolt's election for Greenwich?—Yes, I did.

2821. What did you say to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie?—I was introduced to him by a friend.

2822. By whom?—By Lord Arthur Lennox.

2823. Is Lord Arthur Lennox a Member of the House?—He is not.

2824. What took place between you and Mr. Forbes Mackenzie?—I was introduced to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie casually by Lord Arthur Lennox.

2825. Where were you introduced to him?—I think it was in Pall Mall; I was walking with Lord Arthur Lennox.

2826. Near the Carlton Club?—Yes.

2827. Was it in the Carlton Club?—No.

2828. Were you ever in the Carlton Club?—Frequently.

2829. Do you belong to it?—No.

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2830. Did you ever see Mr. Forbes Mackenzie in the Carlton Club?—I have.

2831. Did you ever see Major Beresford in the Carlton Club?—I have.

2832. Do you mean to tell me that you never had any conversation with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie or Major Beresford at the Carlton Club with reference to the elections?—With Major Beresford I have, but not with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie at the Carlton Club.

2833. Now we will go back to your introduction by Lord Arthur Lennox to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie; how did you know Lord Arthur Lennox?—I have known him for these 10 years; he is a very old friend.

2834. Who proposed that you should be introduced to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie?—I do not know; I did not propose being introduced to him; I met him by accident with Lord Arthur Lennox, and he introduced me to him.

2835. What did you want to see Mr. Forbes Mackenzie for?—I did not want to see him.

2836. What did you speak to him about?—I was introduced to him by Lord Arthur Lennox in the street.

2837. Did you go into the Carlton Club with him afterwards?—Not that I recollect with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie; I do not think I ever went into the Carlton Club with him.

2838. Have you seen him in the Carlton Club?—I have seen him at the Carlton Club, but I do not recollect speaking to him there.

2839. What conversation had you with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie in reference to the elections?—He asked me if I thought Mr. Rolt would stand for Greenwich, Mr. Rolt being a connexion of mine; a brother-in-law of mine; at least, my brother married his sister.

2840. What did you tell Mr. Forbes Mackenzie?—I said I did not know whether he would or not.

2841. What took place then?—There it ceased. I told him he had better see Mr. Rolt himself.

2842. Did not you see Mr. Rolt yourself?—I saw him.

2843. Did not you speak to him about coming forward for Greenwich?—I told him what Mr. Forbes Mackenzie had said.

2844. What did you say to him?—I said it would be a very good opportunity for him to come into public life; he had never been in Parliament before.

2845. Did you go down to Greenwich and see Mr. Rolt there?—Mr. Rolt does not live at Greenwich.

2846. Did not you go to Mr. Rolt?—I was staying with Mr. Rolt; I was on a visit to him.

2847. Were not you with Mr. Rolt at Greenwich?—I was with him at Greenwich; I am continually with him; I live with him, when I am in town, and always have done so since I have been home.

2848. Have not you been with Mr. Rolt at Greenwich?—I was with Mr. Rolt at Greenwich.

2849. Were not you with Mr. Rolt, at Greenwich, during the canvassing?—I think not during the canvassing.

2850. Were you in Woolwich?—I was down during the canvassing, and saw him canvassing; but I was on duty at Deptford; therefore I was obliged to continue there. I saw Mr. Rolt about, and knew that he was canvassing.

2851. Did you never go about with Mr. Rolt at all?—I think once I walked a hundred yards; but that was merely from meeting him, and wishing to say something to him.

2852. Did you speak to him about the election?—No, not during that time. I wanted to see Mr. Rolt about some engagement, and as to wishing to see him, and I went and spoke to him.

2853. What was your duty there?—I was chairman of the committee, for the investigation of some mill process.

2854. Did you ever say anything to the people in the yard about their votes?—Not one. I never had the least conversation with them. I was engaged from half-past seven in the morning till five every evening, in minutely attending the experiments. I had never any conversation with any of the people in the yard about their votes.

2855. After Mr. Forbes Mackenzie spoke to you, in reference to your brother-in-law being a good person to come forward for the borough of Greenwich, you saw your brother-in-law?—I was living there at his house.

2856. And

2856. And you told him of the conversation you had had with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie?—Yes.

2857. Did you advise him to come forward?—Yes, I told him the conversation. He had been solicited before; it had been talked of before; but Mr. Forbes Mackenzie knowing that I was a relation of Mr. Rolt's, when Lord Arthur Lennox met him and introduced me to him, this conversation took place, he knowing that I was living with Mr. Rolt also, I suppose.

2858. Do you mean to say that having advised your brother-in-law to come forward as a candidate for the borough, you never gave him any assistance at all?—None whatever, except on one occasion, and that was, he was staying with me when he lost his son; he was going to London when his son was drowned in the Birkenhead; he entreated me to come up as his confidential friend in the state of mind he was in.

2859. Have you not, within the last two days, stated to a person within the walls of this House, that Mr. Rolt was likely to retire, or would have retired, from the contest for Greenwich, had not it been for yourself?—Not that I am aware of.

2860. You have not said anything in reference to that subject to anybody?—I am not aware that I have.

2861. Did Mr. Rolt ever think of giving up the contest?—I think he did at one time.

2862. Did not you persuade him to go on?—I told him, after having begun the thing, I should be sorry to see him go back; that it would injure his character as a public man.

2863. Did not you endeavour to persuade him to go on with the contest?—I did.

2864. Have you not spoken to the effect that you have been very instrumental in the return of Members to serve in Parliament?—I have stated that I have had a knowledge of men who have been returned to Parliament.

2865. Have you not spoken to the effect that you have been very instrumental in the return of Members to serve in Parliament?—Yes, I have.

2866. What Members did you refer to, of whom you referred in that way?—I referred to Mr. Rolt more particularly.

2867. Were the other Members connected with the dockyards?—I have spoken of Mr. Mare because he is a connexion of mine. I was so far instrumental, that I have given my advice when they have asked me about becoming candidates.

2868. What other Members?—No others that I recollect.

2869. Do you mean that you only spoke of Mr. Mare and Mr. Rolt?—I do not recollect; it is possible I may have spoken of others.

2870. Do you mean to say that you have not spoken of other Members representing boroughs with which dockyards are connected, as to your having been instrumental in their return?—I shall not deny that I may have said so.

2871. Did you?—I believe I did.

2872. Of whom did you speak?—I did not speak of any name; I spoke of no names.

2873. What Members did you refer to, if you did not mention names?—I alluded to Mr. Rolt and Mr. Mare.

2874. Those you mentioned before; what others were there?—Sir George Berkeley.

2875. What others?—No others that I know of; I have no knowledge of any other.

2876. Did you not speak in reference, not exactly to the return, but the possibility of the return, of Sir John Maxwell?—No, not at all; I did not think he would ever be returned; that was my impression. It is necessary that I should speak of this case as a whole; I am examined only about particular points; I was asked before when I was in the hospital by a gentleman, whether there was any chance of his return; I told him "No." I told him that it would be impossible to succeed against Mr. Tufnell; that he was a man so universally beloved, and had done so much for parties without distinction, that it would be impossible to unseat him, and if Sir John Romilly came, it would be impossible to succeed against him; that if Sir John Romilly did not come, but a stranger came, and was taken by the hand by Mr. Tufnell, he might have a chance, but I should be very sorry to see any opposition to Mr. Tufnell.

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2877. You expressed yourself in those terms with regard to Mr. Rolt, with regard to Mr. Mare, and with regard to Sir George Berkeley. Let us now go back to Pall Mall and the Carlton Club; what conversations had you in the Carlton Club with Major Beresford, in reference to any of those elections?—I had very little conversation indeed with Major Beresford on the subject.

2878. Did you, or did you not, tell Major Beresford what the chances of the Conservative candidates were in any of those boroughs?—I did; I told him that I did not think there was any chance at Devonport. He asked me, living there, and being introduced to him, what chance there was; I said, "I do not think there is any chance at Devonport. I do not think you can remove Mr. Tufnell, and I should be very sorry to see it."

2879. Did you ever know Major Beresford before last year?—I have only been a short time in England; I was introduced to him the year before last.

2880. When?—I do not exactly know when it was; it was when I went to town; it may have been within the last 18 months.

2881. Since Lord Derby's Government came into power?—I do not know whether it was before or since; I think it is about 18 months that I have known him.

2882. Was it in the year 1852?—Before the year 1852.

2883. How did you become acquainted with Major Beresford?—I was introduced to him by Lord Arthur Lennox.

2884. By Lord Arthur Lennox again?—Yes, it was talked of his becoming a candidate for the borough, and he did not wish to come down; he desired me to state to Major Beresford my opinion as to the feasibility of his going, and I told Major Beresford what I have told the Committee now.

2885. You say Lord Arthur Lennox talked about being a candidate for the borough; which borough do you mean?—The Borough of Devonport.

2886. Therefore, Lord Arthur Lennox being talked of as a possible candidate for the Borough of Devonport, introduced you to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie and Major Beresford?—He introduced me to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie and to Major Beresford.

2887. Did not you have a conversation with Major Beresford in reference to the probability of the election at Devonport?—I did.

2888. Tell the Committee what conversation you had?—Major Beresford asked me if I thought there was any chance for a candidate; I said, "Certainly not, against Mr. Tufnell nor Sir John Romilly."

2889. And this conversation took place in the Carlton Club?—I do not know where it took place; not in the Carlton Club, I think; I think in the Lobby of the House of Commons.

2890. Think again?—I cannot be certain whether the conversation took place in the Carlton Club, or the Lobby of the House of Commons.

2891. Do you mean that you never had any conversation with Major Beresford in the Carlton Club, in reference to the election at Devonport?—I have had conversations with Major Beresford in reference to the election at Devonport; whether it was at the Carlton Club or in the Lobby of the House of Commons, I cannot recollect.

2892. Did not Major Beresford consult you frequently in reference to the elections?—He did not, only respecting Devonport election.

2893. Respecting that, he did?—He did only that one.

2894. He did consult you about the Devonport election?—He did; he asked me the question, and I gave him the answer, that I did not think there would be any chance of succeeding.

2895. Did not he put more than one question?—He asked me the question, whether I thought there was any chance for the Government candidate at Devonport; I told him that I did not think any effort they could make would unseat the then Members; certainly not Mr. Tufnell, who was so much liked there; a man himself so much liked by all parties that there would be no chance, and that I should be very sorry to see him lose his seat, and very sorry to see any opposition to him. As to Sir John Romilly, it was very doubtful whether he would come forward. I also said, "If Sir John Romilly comes forward, he will not unseat him;" the consequence was, that from my opinions of those gentlemen Lord Arthur Lennox abandoned the idea of coming forward.

2896. You have been at Bermuda?—I have.

2897. Have not you expressed a desire to go back there again?—I have.

2898. To

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2898. To whom did you express that desire?—To Lord Lyndhurst.

2899. Did not you make application to Lord Lyndhurst for an appointment there lately?—No, not lately.

2900. What do you mean by not lately?—I made an application to Lord Lyndhurst when I came from Bermuda. I waited on him. He asked me a great many questions respecting Bermuda; some very close questions respecting the colony and respecting the convicts; and I gave him such satisfactory answers that he said, "It would be a very good thing to send you as governor to Bermuda." I said, "Indeed it would, my Lord."

2901. Have not you had conversation with other Members of the late Government in regard to Bermuda?—I have conversed with the Duke of Richmond.

2902. He was not a Member of the late Government?—Those were the parties.

2903. Have you had conversations with Members of the late Government?—Yes.

2904. With whom?—With Mr. Rolt.

2905. He was not a Member of the Government?—Mr. Bateson.

2906. He was a Lord of the Treasury?—Yes.

2907. Under Lord Derby's administration?—Yes.

2908. What other Member of the late Government?—None that I know of; no other Member of the Government except Mr. Bateson and Colonel Forester, who can hardly be considered a Member of the Government.

2909. He was a Member of the Government?—He held a position under the Government.

2910. You saw Colonel Forester at the Carlton Club, did not you?—I did.

2911. And spoke to Colonel Forester about the elections?—He asked me pretty nearly the same question again, because Major Beresford had gone; I believe he had nothing to do with the elections then; I was asked the same question about Devonport, to which I gave the same answer.

2912. When Major Beresford gave up having anything to do with the elections you did not speak to Colonel Forester on the subject, but he asked you questions?—He did; my opinion was listened to by those gentlemen, and they naturally asked me questions respecting the town where I lived.

2913. Were you not in communication with Colonel Forester and Mr. Forbes Mackenzie in reference to the elections?—They have written me letters, and I have replied to them.

2914. What letters did they write to you?—They have written me letters upon that point; to ask whether there would be any chance for a Government candidate.

2915. Were you not in frequent communication with Colonel Forester and Mr. Forbes Mackenzie in reference to the election of Members to serve in Parliament?—I never had any letter respecting the return of Members to serve in Parliament from Mr. Forbes Mackenzie; Colonel Forester has written me to the effect that I have stated.

2916. In reference to the elections?—Asking my opinion with respect to the probability of success for the Government candidate; whether my opinion was changed.

2917. In reference to that election only?—More particularly respecting Devonport.

2918. In respect to that election only?—I am not aware of any but Devonport; it is possible that he may have mentioned others.

2919. Did not he write to you in reference to Greenwich?—Not that I am aware of; if I had his letters, I should be able to show them; but I have not got them, and it is impossible to fix my memory.

2920. Did he write to you in reference to Greenwich?—I am being minutely examined upon points which it would be almost impossible for any one to recollect; I am giving the fullest evidence I can possible give, but when there is such a cross-examination, I must appeal to the Chairman for that protection, which I think, his Lordship will give me, if he thinks that I am not fairly dealt with. I do not see what this has to do with the summons I have received at all. I have it in my pocket; I have answered all these questions, but here is my summons, and I do not see that this cross-examination respecting my private affairs has anything to do with the subject.

2921. I am not asking you with reference to anything private; I am asking you

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you with reference to your conduct, you being a person holding office under the Admiralty in a dockyard, to know whether you confined yourself to your duty, or whether you interfered in the general politics of the country?—I have confined myself to it, and have done my duty; but if a relation or a connexion of mine, a gentleman, asked me any questions, or made a confidential communication to me, I do not see that it interfered with the discharge of my duties for me to answer him, and especially when they happened to be relations and connexions.

2922. *Chairman.*] I wish to call your attention to your duty before the Committee. You say that you are summoned here only upon dockyard appointments; you are summoned to this Committee, and must answer the questions put to you. The Committee is appointed not only to consider dockyard appointments, but generally to inquire into the exercise of the influence and patronage of the Admiralty in the dockyards and Government departments connected with the several Parliamentary boroughs. Having called your attention to the business for which the Committee is appointed, I beg you will answer the questions as well as you can?—I am quite ready to answer any questions.

2923. Sir *B. Hall.*] I have traced you first to Lord Arthur Lennox, who at one time intended to be a candidate for the borough of Devonport; he introduces you to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie, who was called the Whipper-in of the Government of that day; he introduces you then to Major Beresford, who was the quondam Whipper-in of the then Government; he introduces you to Colonel Forester, who it is well known took an active part in the elections. I intend to follow up my inquiries in reference to your conduct in connexion with those gentlemen. I desire to know whether you did or did not report to any of those gentlemen what was the probability of the success of Mr. Rolt as a candidate for the borough of Greenwich, after you had been there?—I always thought that Mr. Rolt would succeed for Greenwich.

2924. That is not an answer to my question?—I told them that I thought Mr. Rolt would succeed at Greenwich; I told them so before the election.

2925. Had not you frequent communications with those gentlemen, one or all of them, in reference to the election for the borough of Devonport?—No; I had no connexion with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie about the election for the borough of Devonport.

2926. With one or all of them?—What I have stated passed as to Colonel Forrester.

2927. Had you not frequent communications with Colonel Forester as to the election for the borough of Devonport?—Not three communications altogether.

2928. But all those communications were previous to the election, and in reference to the election?—Those letters were about myself, I think, at least one of them, and had nothing to do with the elections.

2929. You told me that you had three communications with him about the election?—I think so; one was more particularly in reference to my own private affairs; whether the election was mentioned I do not know.

2930. The other two were with reference to the election?—Yes, he thought proper to press me, and I always gave him such an answer as I thought proper; I should be very glad to see my answer read here.

2931. Do you know a person of the name of Thomas Pope, a miller?—Yes, there is a man of that name.

2932. Do you know how he voted?—No, I do not know how he voted.

2933. Have you never spoken to him in regard to his vote?—He spoke to me, asking me to get him employed, and said he should be very happy to vote as he had done before, for the Conservative candidate. I said, "I have nothing to do with voting; you may vote as you like." That was the answer I gave to every man; "Vote according to your conscience; I have nothing to do with it."

2934. Do you know a person of the name of Thomas Tippett, a serjeant of police?—Yes.

2935. Did you ever speak to him about his vote?—No.

2936. Did he ever speak to you about it?—He has spoken to me about it.

2937. Do you know William Cornish, a policeman?—Yes.

2938. Do you know how he voted at previous elections?—I do not know how he voted at previous elections.

2939. How did he vote at the last election?—For Sir George Berkeley.

2940. And Sir John Maxwell?—I am not certain; I only go by report; I did not

not examine the voting after the election, therefore I only speak from common report; he may not have voted for Sir George Berkeley, but I believe he did.

2941. Did you ever speak to him about his vote?—No, never.

2942. Did he speak to you?—He did; he said he had been disappointed in not getting things from the people whom he had served before, and he fancied it was because he did not offer the requisite sum of money; that he trusted now I should be able to assist him, as he had been an old servant. I said, "You must go to the Superintendent, and if there is anything I can do for you I shall be very happy." He said he had been every year endeavouring to get something, but as he had voted for that party he had not got anything.

2943. Do you know Thomas Clayfield?—Yes.

2944. Did you ever speak to him about his vote?—No, I did not know how he voted till I came to London.

2945. Did he ever speak to you?—No.

2946. Henry Edgcombe was a labourer?—Yes.

2947. Did he ever speak to you?—I am not certain; I do not recollect the man; he is not under my particular department; it is possible he did speak to me, but I do not recollect.

2948. He is a labourer in the victualling yard?—Yes; except when I go through the stores, which are more particularly under me, I do not know the countenance of the man out of doors; Edgcombe is not under me in any way. There is a man of that name, and if I am not mistaken he wanted to be made a first class labourer. Some one else spoke to me about him.

2949. William Evans, is he a labourer?—There is a policeman of the name of Evans.

2950. Charles Brown, a policeman, you know him?—Yes; I have already answered respecting him.

2951. Had not you some conversation with Charles Brown, the policeman, about his vote?—I had.

2952. What took place?—He followed me one night at 12 o'clock, when I went into the victualling yard, and said, "I hope you will consider my son as an apprentice;" I said, "I shall be very happy to consider you." I fancy he had promised his vote on the Conservative side; he said, "I shall do what is right;" I said, "I shall have nothing to do with voting in the case; if your services are such as to entitle your son to be recommended as an apprentice, I will do it; I have nothing to do with your votes, I wish you would not intrude the subject of your votes on me."

2953. Did you tell him to digest the matter before he voted?—No, I told him to vote according to his conscience; I never made use of the word "digest," I may be permitted, probably, to follow up that, by saying that Brown asked me to get his son appointed as a cooper's apprentice. I said, "If you will come to my office and write a petition, and let it go through the Superintendent, which is the proper course, I shall be very happy to consider your services." However he never spoke to me from that hour to the time that his son got the apprenticeship. His son has now got an apprenticeship; but four policemen, and, I think, this man among the number, reported to me (I may call it a public report), that in the canvass, when Mr. Tufnell canvassed them, and they did not exactly pledge him their votes, he said, "Mr. Triscott has been at you;" the men said I had never spoken to them upon the subject, directly nor indirectly, nor did I know that they were voters. Mr. Tufnell was told this. In consequence of these men having reported that to me, I was very anxious that the men should know that I was not interested; that I did not wish to influence them one way or the other; and when any man after that spoke to me about his promotion, I took care to impress that on him, having been warned by those four men. The men were Tippett, Brown, Greet, and Bullock. Mr. Tufnell asked the question of those men, and they said, "Mr. Triscott has never spoken to us; he does not know we are voters."

2954. By whom were you appointed?—By Sir Francis Baring.

2955. Did Sir Francis Baring give you any instructions when he appointed you, in reference to interference with politics?—Not when he appointed me. I had a letter in regard to the appointment, to say that it was to be understood that I was not to interfere in local politics; it was from Captain Eden, his private secretary, and marked "Private."

2956. How soon after your appointment did you receive that letter?—About

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three days after; it was after my appointment. I received my appointment without the least idea of receiving it from Sir Francis Baring, who had obtained justice before for me, without knowing anything about my services, which I had been in vain endeavouring to obtain for 18 years.

2957. I asked you some questions about Bermuda; I asked you whether you had not made application for an appointment there; you told me that you had applied to Lord Lyndhurst?—Lord Lyndhurst, when I quitted him in London, said, "If I have any opportunity, when Bermuda becomes vacant, I shall be very glad to recommend you." When I quitted Bermuda I received addresses from the Legislative body, and the House of Assembly, stating their regret at my going, and giving me a piece of plate, and hoping I should return there again, as my intimate knowledge of all parties there would have been of material benefit if I were Governor of the colony. I stated this to Lord Lyndhurst. He said, "Very well, I shall be very glad to intercede for you when a vacancy is likely to occur," and there it stopped.

2958. It is no secret, I believe, your having applied to Lord Lyndhurst?—None whatever.

2959. Then I do not enter into any private matter at all?—It is a private affair.

2960. Have not you yourself made it known to persons with whom you are slightly acquainted?—Yes, and I have mentioned it to my acquaintance; people who are always fishing into other people's business have asked me.

2961. Have not you volunteered it to gentlemen with whom you had very little acquaintance?—I may have done so.

2962. Did not you read the letter from Lord Lyndhurst in a club-room at Plymouth to gentlemen with whom you were very little acquainted, showing that Lord Lyndhurst said he hoped better times were coming in reference to the administration?—I think I did mention that.

2963. Then it is not a very private affair?—It is a private affair as regards my own views and expectations.

2964. It might have been a private affair as to what your own feelings ought to be; but you did not make it a private affair, inasmuch as you showed the letter to persons with whom you had very little acquaintance in a club-room?—I do not remember reading the letter to any person; I might have mentioned that Lord Lyndhurst was sorry that I had not succeeded.

2965. He said he hoped better times were coming for you?—He alluded to myself and my promotion.

2966. *Chairman.*] You were appointed, you say, in May 1851?—Yes.

2967. When did you receive that letter, which I understand you to say you received, telling you not to interfere in local politics?—I think two or three days after.

2968. Have you got that letter?—No, I have not got the letter, but I can state the exact wording of it; it is the same I believe as others have received. Sir Francis Baring sent to me for a copy of it; I sent it to him immediately.

2969. It is the same letter as Sir Francis Baring wrote to other persons?—I believe it was written to other persons; I did not get any such letter when I was appointed to the Royal Hospital at Plymouth.

2970. When you were appointed storekeeper, you received a letter, telling you that you were expected not to interfere in local politics?—In local politics.

2971. What sense did you attach to the word "local"?—I first considered it referred to vestries, guardians of the poor, or any matter which had reference to the town. I showed the letter to a friend, and asked whether local politics would allude to general politics in a local sense. He said, "That is a matter for you. I should read 'local politics' as matters relating entirely to the town."

2972. Did you send any answer to that letter?—I did not send any answer. I did not think any was expected; the wording of the letter did not lead me to think so.

2973. Did you think, having received that letter, that you were bound not to interfere in local politics?—Certainly not in local politics.

2974. You interpret "local politics" to mean vestry meetings?—I consider that local politics referred to any matter that had to do with the town or neighbourhood in which I was; local politics.

2975. Do you mean to say that you did not understand that letter as cautioning you against interfering in elections for Members of Parliament?—I certainly never

never understood it as cautioning me against interfering with elections of Members. I considered it referred merely to the borough where I was.

2976. Do you think that that letter was one cautioning you not to interfere in the Parliamentary elections for the borough?—For that borough, certainly.

2977. For the borough of Devonport, you were cautioned not to interfere in Parliamentary elections?—Yes; I considered that it referred to local politics, but I understood it in that way; I thought it was the safest course.

2978. When was it that Captain Rich spoke to you respecting the report that you had taken a part in the elections?—I am not certain; it was before the election; I cannot tell the exact day, or even within a week: it was before the election.

2979. How long before the election?—I should think a week before the election; not so much as that, I think; it was during the canvass.

2980. What was your answer to Captain Rich?—My answer was that I had not interfered; that a man had spoken to me, but I had not interfered, and did not intend to do so; that if he would bring forward the parties, I should be very glad to meet them; he took the opportunity when I went into his office of mentioning this in a very casual manner; he said, "People say so-and-so;" I said, "You should not give ear to mere idle reports."

2981. Did he caution you not to take a part in politics?—He advised me not; not in the election; not to have anything to do with it; at least, he said I had better have nothing to do with influencing the voters; I said I should not, certainly.

2982. You told him, as I understand, that you would not; and that you had not taken any part?—I told him I had not taken any part in influencing voters; having anything to do with the men in the yard; influencing their voting one way or the other.

2983. You did not consider that it applied to being a partisan out of the yard?—It did not apply to my general politics, or to the bias I feel as regards other matters; he did not speak to me upon that, but only about the voters in the yard.

2984. This was after your interviews with various Members of the Government, in London?—Partly before, and partly after; partly, I should think, after I had had those interviews.

2985. It was after you had had those interviews?—Yes; but he never alluded to anything except votes in the Victualling Yard.

2986. Was that after you had given an opinion respecting the return of Sir George Berkeley?—I did not give any opinion respecting the return of Sir George Berkeley; I gave an opinion that the Conservative candidate would not succeed.

2987. That was after you were consulted upon the possibility of returning a Conservative Member?—After that; it was some time back. I did not know who were coming till the candidates were both in the town; in fact, I did not expect any person, from my view of the case. I was very much astonished when the poll commenced; I always considered that Mr. Tufnell would succeed. Mr. Tufnell is a friend of mine; he met me, and said, "Triscott, I hope you will not interfere in any way against me; I wrote to Sir Francis Baring on your behalf." I said, "Mr. Tufnell, I wish you success; I shall take no steps against you." He said, "People say you have." I said, "I assure you I have not, nor will I do so." I was introduced to Mr. Tufnell in the year 1838.

2988. Are the Committee to understand that you considered your intercourse with Major Beresford and Colonel Forester as no violation of the condition that you were not to interfere in politics?—Certainly; I did not suppose it to refer to anything except the politics of the place where I was; I did not imagine I had in the least infringed the spirit of that order; for though "local" might have been interpreted mere town politics, I thought it best to interpret it as general political influence in a local position. Two of the gentlemen are connexions of mine, it must be remembered.

2989. Were those Members of the Government connexions of yours?—No; Mr. Forbes Mackenzie is a brother-in-law of an intimate friend of mine, who wished me to be introduced to him, Mr. Montgomery; I imagined he had written to Mr. Forbes Mackenzie about me. When I mentioned that to Lord Arthur Lennox, he said, "There is Mr. Forbes Mackenzie; I will introduce you to him." He said, "I know your name, through my brother-in-law, and am very happy to meet you."

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2990. I understand you to say that you consider those political conversations, in which conversations you say your opinion was often listened to, were no violation of the condition that you were not to interfere in politics?—Certainly, I did not consider that it bound me in any respect from interfering in those matters.

2991. You think that local politics were limited to Devonport?—The words were "with regard to your appointment of storekeeper," the latter also was marked "private;" it was not an official letter. It said, "With reference to your appointment of storekeeper of the Royal Victualling Yard, I am desired to say, by Sir Francis Baring, that he has always made it a rule that the persons whom he selects for these appointments are not to interfere in local politics." I referred that expression to the antecedent in the letter, namely, Devonport, where I was stationed.

2992. Did you think it went as far as Stonehouse?—Stonehouse and Devonport are the same place.

2993. Did it go as far as Plymouth?—It might be considered to go to Plymouth. I did not consider it referred to Plymouth.

2994. You considered you might take an active part in the canvass of Plymouth, without violating the condition?—I think, looking to the terms of that letter, I might go to Plymouth; but it would have been imprudent in me to have canvassed at Plymouth. I did not do so. I only recommended Mr. Mare to come there; he fought his own way. I do not think I could have canvassed at Plymouth, nor taken any active part in the election; I think the spirit of Sir Francis Baring's letter alluded to my neighbourhood.

2995. Are you positive that you did not write any answer to Sir Francis Baring?—I did not write any answer; I asked one or two friends whether it was necessary that I should answer the letter, and they said, "No." Sir Francis Baring wrote to me a letter the other day asking for a copy of it, which I sent immediately. In my official capacity it was known what my politics were. I never disguised them; some of the men in the yard were anxious for promotion; others were anxious to deprecate what they imagined, as they did not know me as they do now, might be an attempt to influence them in their voting. Whenever they have come to me about situations, or wanting anything, I told them I should be very happy to deal with them according to the circumstances of their case; and when a man mentioned anything about voting, I said, "You had better vote according to your conscience; I should have a mean opinion of a turncoat or a traitor. I do not wish to influence your votes in any way whatever, and I wish particularly to tell you so, because people have said something of the kind." After Captain Rich spoke to me, I was anxious that the men should not have the least idea that I wanted to improperly influence them in their votes.

2996. When you have an opportunity at Plymouth in the Victualling Yard, do you sign any recommendation?—I do not sign any recommendation. The instructions run thus: that when a vacancy shall occur, after consulting the officer in whose department it is, he should recommend two names. With respect to parties that are under myself, I, being responsible for everything, am supposed to have something to say in their appointment.

2997. Have you been consulted by Captain Rich as to recommendations?—The instructions say I shall be consulted; I have not been on all occasions.

2998. Have you never been consulted since May 1851 as to any promotions?—I have not been consulted.

2999. Never?—I have known the name, but I have never been sent for and asked; names have been sent up. In the case of one of the apprentices, the other day, when Brown's son was appointed, I was not consulted. I brought forward the name of a person, in order to carry out the circular, which enjoins that it shall be sons of artificers. I brought forward the name of the son of a poor man, Bullock, who is dead, who voted for Mr. Tufnell.

3000. You took that to Captain Rich, do you mean?—I mentioned it to him casually; a man came who had been 25 years in the service. I sent those names up to Captain Rich; their capabilities were tried. Nicholls petitioned also afterwards, and got an order to examine his son, he coming within the limits of the meaning of the circular; the policeman's son not doing so. But a letter came down from Mr. Tufnell's agent, which was open, in which he wished Captain Rich to recommend the son of Brown, intimating that he had got a promise from Mr. Tufnell.

3001. Who wrote those letters?—The agent of Mr. Tufnell, Dr. Sheppard;

he wrote a letter to Captain Rich, which Captain Rich sent down to me, intimating that he had written to Mr. Tufnell, and that his boy was recommended, and would have the vacancy. Captain Rich was very much annoyed; he considered the letter was only asking him to play second fiddle, and he desired his secretary to return an answer, which very much annoyed Dr. Sheppard. Mr. S. Tuffnell. 6 May 1852.

3002. Is Dr. Sheppard a person living in Devonport?—He lives in Stonehouse.

3003. He wrote a letter to Captain Rich, wishing for the promotion of some person?—Wishing for the promotion of this very man, Brown's son, who had applied to me before; but when the other man came he did not apply to me. Dr. Sheppard applied to Captain Rich, and said that he had written to Mr. Tufnell, who would recommend the boy, and he wished Captain Rich to bear out Mr. Tufnell's recommendation as to the man that was sent up. Captain Rich got annoyed, and he sent down the letter. That was the first time I knew of Brown's son being a candidate for the office.

3004. Do you mean that Captain Rich sent you the letter, that you might inquire respecting Brown's son?—No, the letter was in the bag; I read it and took it up to Captain Rich's office.

3005. You say that Captain Rich sent it down to you?—He did not send it to me particularly; the Captain lives out of the yard; he lives at the hospital; a man goes to the hospital with letters; we had not a bag at that time; the letters were sent by a man; Captain Rich reads them and sends them down; he sent this letter with the other letters, which he sent down by the messenger. I read all the public letters, and one of those was the letter about Brown.

3006. This was a letter to Captain Rich?—Yes.

3007. Wishing Captain Rich to further the promotion of Brown's son?—Yes, intimating that it had also been secured through Mr. Tufnell.

3008. What was Brown's son?—A little boy.

3009. What was he to be promoted to?—He was to be entered as an apprentice; there were two cooper apprenticeships vacant in April.

3010. It was not a promotion, but an entry?—Yes.

3011. He wished the entry of Brown's son?—Yes, to be entered as a cooper's apprentice.

3012. What is the usual mode of entering apprentices in the Victualling Yard?—The names are brought before the Superintendent, when all the candidates names are there; he consults the officer in whose department it is, as to the fitness of the men; that is myself, primarily, and then the master cooper.

3013. Is there any examination of the men to see their fitness?—There is an examination for that purpose.

3014. At what time of the year does that examination usually take place; is there any particular time of the year?—There is no particular time; when vacancies are reported, candidates are brought forward; there are very few vacancies; it is not like the dockyard.

3015. Are the candidates generally the sons of persons who are workmen in the yard?—The circular, which I have only seen since it has been last sent down, says preference is to be given to the sons of officers or artificers.

3016. When did you see this circular?—Directly it came down; about six weeks ago, I think.

3017. Before this circular came down, recommending the sons of officers or others who had been employed to be preferred, was it the practice that the sons of men who had worked in the yard were preferred?—Yes; the situations were generally given to men in that position; that is the reason I entertained Brown's request.

3018. Were those examinations conducted by you?—No; they are never conducted by me.

3019. What had you to do with it in entertaining Brown's request?—I entertained Brown's request when he spoke to me at first, as far as saying that if he would bring his name to the office when a vacancy took place I would see that he should have justice done to him and to his services.

3020. How did you mean to see that Brown should have justice?—That his services should have their due weight; that they should be taken into consideration in placing his name upon the lists; that he should have due consideration; at that time the circular was not down.

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3021. What number of names did you put upon the list for the Superintendent?—I did not give any list.

3022. You said you would put him on the list?—That was if a list was made out.

3023. Did you generally mention the names of those candidates to Captain Rich?—No. I never knew of Brown being a candidate till his name was mentioned to me by Captain Rich.

3024. I thought you told me that when Brown spoke to you, you said you would take care that he should have justice done him?—I said so; that was three or four months before the vacancy took place; I said that when a vacancy took place, if he would bring his case to me I would give it a full consideration.

3025. When you made that promise, you intended to bring his name under the consideration of Captain Rich?—It was my full intention to have done it, but Captain Rich would have had to judge of the circular.

3026. You said that the circular was only issued six weeks ago?—The appointment has been since the circular.

3027. When was it that Brown spoke to you?—Before the election.

3028. Brown spoke to you, and then you proposed to bring his name under the consideration of Captain Rich?—Yes, I did; I said "If you will speak to me when a vacancy takes place, I will take care that your services shall have due regard."

3029. Captain Rich was the person who had the appointment of those apprentices?—He had the final recommendation to the Board.

3030. He recommended them to the Admiralty?—Yes; the recommendation that went up for Brown's son is since the circular; but, notwithstanding that, I should have sent his name forward, because there might be circumstances under which there might be no candidate a son of an artisan.

3031. Lord *Hotham*.] Did Brown ever give or send the name of his son to your office, after you had that conversation with him?—Never; if he had done so, I should have put his name forward, though he did not come strictly within the circular. If there were no candidate an artificer's son, his servitude in the yard would have come into consideration. I sent up the name of the son of a man who had been 25 years in the yard, but he was not appointed; Brown's son was taken.

3032. *Chairman*.] Are the regulations in force in the dockyard respecting canvassing within the yard, also in force in the victualling yard?—Yes, I think they are the same.

3033. Canvassing is forbidden in the Victualling Yard?—Yes; I had occasion to turn out the committee from Devonport Victualling Yard. I was walking through the yard on duty, and I met three persons with a policeman; I said, "What do you want here?" They said, "We want to see a man who is a voter;" and they said, "We are members of Mr. Mare's committee." I said, "You have no business here," and I had them turned out immediately. Mr. Mare said, that he believed I had behaved very rudely to the men. I said, "You ought to have known better; circumstanced as I was you ought not to have put me in such a position." If it had been known that the committee had been there, and I had not been aware of it, it would have been said that I had invited them; very luckily I met them and turned them out of the Victualling Yard. Mr. Mare met me and said, "You have treated my committee very cavalierly." I said, "They had no business there."

3034. I understand you to say that, though Plymouth is contiguous to Devonport, it was not, in your opinion, included in the words that restrained you from interfering in local politics?—Not strictly; but I think no man could receive the letter without thinking himself wrong in canvassing in Plymouth; I think the meaning of Sir Francis Baring, which I am bound to abide by, was, that I should not have done my duty by canvassing in Plymouth.

3035. Do you think that having received that letter you might have canvassed at Woolwich?—Yes, I think I might have done so; I think it would have been imprudent; it is a point which, legally, could not have been taken against a person; but I think it would have been just as well not.

3036. Do you think that it would be just as well for officers in the victualling yard not to interfere in politics at all?—I think every person has a right to the enjoyment of his opinion; if you are restricted from writing or communicating entirely, it is political emasculation. I have endeavoured to draw the line between

between what I consider the duties of my situation ; I understand by that letter that you are not to use your influence either in one way or the other, but I do not think it prevented my corresponding with any person, especially relations.

3037. You said that you had been instrumental in returning Members to Parliament ; you do not consider having been instrumental in returning Members to Parliament to be at all an infringement of that letter which you received from Sir Francis Baring ?—Certainly not, provided I did not canvass or interfere in local politics. May I be permitted to say, that I have had appointments which have fallen under my nomination since ; a clerk capable of copying documents was ordered to be hired in consequence of my application, to furnish assistance to the Superintendent, he being paid so much ; that has been done at all the victualling yards. This was left to me, being in my office ; of course I had a great many applications from various parties ; some who imagined that my political feelings would interfere to lead me to give it to some one who was my way of thinking. However, I gave the appointment to the son of my first clerk ; I appointed him, he having served, not in my time, but before, and being a very great political partisan of Mr. Tufnell, and having always voted for him.

3038. When did you make this appointment ?—About a month ago.

3039. You appointed a gentleman who had been a friend of Mr. Tufnell's ?—Yes.

3040. I understand you to say, that from May 1851 up to the present time you had not been consulted as to promotions in the Victualling Yard ?—I have not been consulted generally.

3041. Not as to any promotions in the Victualling Yard ?—Generally, I have not been consulted as to any promotions in the Victualling Yard.

3042. Have you given your opinion respecting any promotions in the Victualling Yard since you have been these ?—I have since I have been there. I have given opinions when the Captain has asked me for them, but that has not been on all occasions.

3043. The captain has sometimes asked you ?—I think he has asked me once or twice, but generally speaking I have not been consulted.

3044. Have you ever given an opinion in writing respecting any promotion ?—Never.

3045. Can you say how many promotions there have been in the Victualling Yard since May 1851 ?—Two men were made foremen, one was made a messenger.

3046. When were the two men made foremen ?—I do not recollect the dates exactly ; if I had the books I could refer to them. I think one was made foreman a twelvemonth ago : probably 15 months ago. I think it was shortly after I came in.

3047. In 1852 ?—Yes, I think in 1852. I am not certain as to the dates.

3048. What was his name ?—One of them was John or William Parkin.

3049. What had he been before ?—He had been a messenger.

3050. Was that promotion in its regular course ?—Yes, in its regular course.

3051. Were you consulted as to that ?—No, I was not consulted, but I knew the name ; the man told me that the captain had sent up his name with another. I was not consulted ; indeed I do not think that I was in Plymouth at the time ; I am not certain. The vacancy had been talked of because the man was about to be superannuated.

3052. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] I think you said that you never saw Mr. Stafford about elections at all ?—No ; he never wrote to me about elections.

3053. Nor spoke to you ?—Nor spoke to me.

3054. Had you ever any communication directly or indirectly with him ?—No.

3055. Nor with any person at the Admiralty ?—No ; nor with any person at the Admiralty.

3056. You had with you those gentlemen whom you have mentioned ?—Yes.

3057. And you took a great interest in the success of the various candidates for the dockyard boroughs ?—It so happened that I took an interest in the success of my friend, wherever he might be.

3058. And it so happened that they were all dockyard boroughs ?—Yes.

3059. Did it never occur to you that Admiralty influence might be brought to bear upon those boroughs in any way ?—It always has, I believe, and it would occur to me that what had taken place might take place again.

3060. In your conversation with those gentlemen you never talked about the

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influence that might be brought to bear?—I thought the dockyard influence was so great, that no candidate would come forward with any chance of success in opposition to it.

3061. Did you conceive that the influence was all against the then Government?—Whichever Government is in, I imagine, has a very great chance of success for any dockyard borough.

3062. Then why did you suppose that there was no chance against Mr. Tufnell?—That was before the Ministry came in. It was not known then that there was to be an election.

3063. It was before the change in the Government?—Yes; and even after that I gave my opinion that there would be no chance then, because Mr. Tufnell was so popular a man with both parties that I did not think he could be unseated.

3064. And Sir John Romilly extremely popular?—Yes; it was not known whether he would stand; I was very much astonished when I saw the state of the poll.

3065. You thought the change in the Government would give Lord Derby's Government a pull?—It would give it a pull, but Mr. Tufnell was so much beloved that I was very much astonished not to see Mr. Tufnell a hundred a-head.

3066. You never consulted with those gentlemen as to how that pull might be given?—No, I avoided it, considering that that was the meaning of the letter of Sir Francis Baring.

[The Witness withdrew.

John H. Hay, Esquire, called in; and further Examined.

J. H. Hay, Esq.

3067. Sir *B. Hall.*] HAVE you an account of the expenses incurred by the trip of the "Black Eagle" to Devonport?—I have certain expenses which are charged upon the Contingencies of the Admiralty.

3068. Are they expenses which are usually incurred when the Secretary goes round, or not?—The expenses of the Board, and the Secretary's, are always paid by me out of the Contingencies.

3069. Has a Secretary ever gone round without the Board in the way in which the late Secretary did?—I do not think I can instance a case in which he did.

3070. During your time has he done so?—No; certainly not to the extent that the late Secretary did.

3071. Will you be good enough to turn to the account of expenses incurred at Devonport on the 22d of June?—The entry in my book is as follows, I entered it on the 25th of June; "Secretary's expenses on an official visit to Portsmouth and Plymouth, 73 *l.* 7 *s.* 7 *d.*"

3072. Have you the items of it?—Here are the items (*producing the same*).

3073. Here is the account of a dinner given at Moorshed's Royal Hotel, Devonport, on the 22d of June, at which, it appears from the account, that several persons must have been present; is that account charged in the Contingencies?—Yes, it is.

3074. Have you known similar accounts to those sent in to the Admiralty when the Board did not go round?—Yes; I have paid a great many expenses for journies for the Board; they occasionally go down to the dockyards alone, when of course I pay their expenses.

3075. Have you ever had any accounts similar to those handed in by any Secretary of the Admiralty?—No.

3076. What is the amount of that bill at Moorshed's Hotel?—The hotel expenses at Devonport were 48 *l.* 15 *s.* 6 *d.*

3077. For that day and the following?—For the whole expenses at Moorshed's.

3078. For what days?—I must explain that a mesesnger always goes with the Board or the Secretary upon those occasions; the messenger brings me his account, and this is the messenger's account. He was absent from the 19th to the 24th.

3079. Over what time does the account at Moorshed's Hotel run?—The 22d and 23d of June.

3080. Those two days are included?—Yes.

3081. And the amount is what?—£. 48. 15 *s.* 6 *d.*

[The Witness withdrew.

Colonel *John R. Coryton*, called in ; and further Examined.

Colonel *J. R. Coryton.*

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3082. Lord *Hotham.*] WHEN, in consequence of Sir George Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell coming to your house, you sent for Ching to come over, did you, on Ching's arrival, say any more, or introduce him to those two candidates?—On the occasion of my sending for Ching, Sir G. Berkeley and Colonel Berkeley were the only persons at my house. Sir John Maxwell was never at my house. I introduced Ching, and left the room immediately.

3083. Before you quitted the room, did you say that you wished Ching to give you or them his vote?—On my honour, not.

3084. Did you ever ask Private Marsh, or any other soldier under your command, to vote for any person whatever?—Most sacredly, on my honour, not.

3085. Was Corporal Atkinson canvassed by any one in your presence?—Decidedly not.

3086. *Chairman.*] Ching was canvassed in your room?—Yes; but I had left the room.

3087. Was Ching the shoemaker of whom you spoke?—He is a shoemaker; he is not a soldier.

3088. Is he the shoemaker of whom you spoke to the Committee?—Yes.

3089. Whose prices you subsequently objected to?—Previously.

3090. Had you objected to his prices previously?—Frequently.

3091. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Is he called master shoemaker?—No, decidedly not.

3092. Does he live in the barracks?—No.

3093. Lord *Hotham.*] Were you in the room when Sir George Berkeley asked Cross for his vote?—I do not believe I was; I am confident, in fact, that I was not. My impression is distinct upon the subject. I said, "This is Mr. Cross." I certainly went no further than saying that Sir George Berkeley might wish for his vote; but I do not believe I ever said that. I wish to say, that both Sir George Berkeley and Colonel Berkeley are ready to be called to corroborate my statement.

Lunæ, 9° die Maii, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Lord Hotham.
Sir Benjamin Hall.	Mr. Beckett.
Sir Henry F. Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

His Grace the Duke of *Northumberland*, K. G. ; Examined.

His Grace the Duke of *Northumberland*, K. G.

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3094. *Chairman.*] WILL your Grace state to the Committee what was the date of your accession to office?—I think it was the 2d or the 3d of March.

3095. Had your Grace previously held any situation in any department of the Government?—Never.

3096. When your Grace commenced superintending the administration of the Admiralty, was any arrangement made as to the distribution of patronage among the Lords and the Secretary?—There was. I believe it has always been the custom among the different members of the Board, and among the different Lords; and I, for my own part, took all the naval patronage, the military patronage, and gave up the civil patronage to the Secretary.

3097. You gave up all the civil patronage to the Secretary?—Excepting the master shipwrights and one class of messengers, which I reserved for deserving sailors and marines.

3098. Is your Grace aware whether it ever had been the custom before for the First Lord to give up the appointment of the principal officers in the dockyards to the Secretary?—I have no knowledge upon the subject, one way or the other;

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I may mention that, privately, Lord Ellenborough told me he never knew anything about the private patronage; I know that only from hearsay.

3099. Are the Committee to understand that it was with your sanction that Mr. Stafford had almost all the dockyard appointments?—Wholly, with the exception of this, where it was an honour to the master shipwright that he should receive the appointment from the head of the establishment. I only reserved it for this reason, that it might be considered as a degree of honour to the master shipwright who received it.

3100. It appears in evidence before the Committee, that on the 2d of April 1852 Mr. Stafford wrote a letter to the Surveyor, in which letter he states, "There seems no alternative but to resume the system that existed previous to September 1849." That pointed to the cancelling of the circular of Sir Francis Baring of September 1849. Had you given any directions to Mr. Stafford before he wrote that letter?—None. I may mention that Mr. Stafford at various times had conversations with me upon the subject. I do not know whether the Committee wish to know what those representations were; but the letter was written without my knowledge, or my knowing of it.

3101. You had not considered one way or the other the expediency of cancelling the circular of September 1849?—I had not.

3102. Was it represented to you by Mr. Stafford in those conversations that the surveyors of the department appeared to use an influence in favour of any political party?—The conversations were at various times, over many mornings, when he came in with his papers; he said that he was displeased as to the patronage of the Admiralty; that he felt a difficulty in doing his duty; and that when called upon by the Government or by the House of Commons to explain anything, to both of which he was responsible, he had not the means of answering, the whole of the appointments and patronage being in the Surveyor's Office. He told me also that the patronage of the Admiralty was used against the Government; and the last time he spoke of it, he said that he felt he had not the power of doing his duty, and could not retain his office under those circumstances. I mention that only as a conversation. I told him then that he must consider it well, for if his office was of little value to him, my office was of very much less value to me. I always refused to interfere, for want of experience; I felt that I had not sufficient, and therefore I refused to interfere.

3103. Hearing this stated by the Secretary, that the patronage of the Admiralty was given to political adversaries, did your Grace institute any inquiries upon the subject at the time?—None whatever; and I never knew from the day I was in office till I left office, whether the patronage was in the hands of the Surveyor, or whether it was in the hands of the Secretary: I never knew anything about it; it was never brought to my knowledge by the parties. I knew nothing whatever about it.

3104. Had your Grace any reason to distrust the Surveyor or his department?—I had only the representations of the Secretary, who, as a member of the Government, was responsible to the House of Commons; and if he made representations, whatever his representations may have been, I supposed that he had grounds for those representations, and I never entered into it. I refused to interfere, because I had not sufficient experience in the matter.

3105. Did your Grace not consider it very prejudicial to the interests of the service that there should be even an imputation against the Surveyor's department as to political favouritism?—It might be so against any department; but I have been now 50 years in the navy, and I have never heard but one story told, which was, that a system of Government influence, or jobbing, as you may call it, in the dockyards always prevailed; it was a matter of common notoriety, as far as I know.

3106. Did your Grace take into consideration the minute which had been issued by Lord Auckland, and written by Sir Henry Ward, with a view to prevent jobbing in the dockyards?—Lord Auckland's regulations were excellent; and if I may mention it, the effect of the minute was to return to Lord Auckland's regulations.

3107. But Lord Auckland's regulations stated that the good or bad working of every system must depend upon those who were entrusted with its administration. When it was represented to your Grace that the Surveyor's office was not properly carrying out its administration, did it not appear to you to be your duty to order an inquiry into that?—I cannot conceive how I could have made any inquiry;

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inquiry; the means of inquiry would be by a Committee, and I had no means of inquiry into every individual case that would be complained of; I merely heard generally from the Secretary, as a confidential and responsible member of the Board in the House of Commons, that such was the case. I had no reason to disbelieve it, but at the same time I did not know that it was anything more than what might have been going on before; it was never imputed to the Surveyor that he was the person who did it; it must have been some one under him, if done at all.

3108. So far as the interests of the service were concerned, if political favouritism prevailed through persons in his department, the injury to the service would be pretty nearly the same?—It appeared to me, and it now appears, that the only way of getting rid of that favouritism or that influence of the Government is by taking away the votes from the dockyard; there are no means of doing it without that, as it always must prevail, and it is difficult to trace it.

3109. When this was brought to your notice by the Secretary, did your Grace authorize the issue of the circular of the 19th of April 1852, which cancelled Sir Francis Baring's circular of 1849?—Whether I sanctioned it or not, I was cognizant of it.

3110. Did you give directions to the Secretary to prepare his circular of the 19th of April?—I was cognizant of it, but I did not give him directions.

3111. Before it was issued, was your Grace cognizant of it?—Before it was issued I was cognizant of it.

3112. Did your Grace approve of it?—On every occasion when it was mentioned to me by Mr. Stafford in his representations, I objected to interfere. I would not interfere, because I had not had sufficient experience; but he afterwards represented to me that Mr. Parker's circular had been written by him, and was not a minute of the Board, and that he as Secretary had the same power to revoke it as Mr. Parker had to issue it; he said also that he would do so on his own responsibility.

3113. Did he bring you the original circular written by Mr. Parker to which he referred?—He did not.

3114. When he brought you the circular of the 19th of April, did your Grace affix your signature or your initials to it?—He did not bring it to me, therefore I did not.

3115. You did not see the circular which had been prepared by Mr. Parker, so as to know whether or not Sir Francis Baring's initials were affixed to it?—I did not.

3116. If it had been brought to your Grace's notice that the circular of September 1849 had affixed to it the initials of the First Lord, should you have considered it necessary to give it some further consideration before allowing that circular of Mr. Stafford's to go forth?—I can hardly answer what I might have done under any circumstances, but Sir Francis Baring's name would not make it a legal document without the name of another Lord of the Admiralty.

3117. Sir Francis Baring's signature being attached only, showed that it had the sanction of the First Lord?—It would have given that impression to me, certainly.

3118. This circular went forward without the sanction of any Lord affixed to it?—Without the sanction of any Lord affixed to it, as I believe, for I did not see it.

3119. On the 21st of April, a few days after this circular, Admiral Hyde Parker stated to the Committee that he placed in your Grace's hands Sir Baldwin Walker's letter of resignation?—I have looked very carefully at the evidence. I find that he is very uncertain about his dates. I may mention at once, that until November, when it was called for in the House of Commons, I did not know that any letter of resignation had been sent in, or ever existed.

3120. Admiral Hyde Parker was asked, at Question 274, "You have heard the evidence that has been given by Sir Baldwin Walker, have you not? Yes, I have.—He stated, that on the 21st of April, he read to you his letter, I think, in which he tendered his resignation to the Admiralty? He did.—Did he give that letter to you? He did.—When you took it, did you take it conditionally, to be used by you according to your discretion, or did you take it as an absolute tender of resignation? I told him, when he gave it to me, that I should take it to the Duke of Northumberland before it came to the Board.—By that, you meant to leave some means of avoiding the enforcement of the letter? I thought

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thought it my duty to take it to the First Lord first, that he might give me directions, or do with it as he pleased.—Did Sir Baldwin Walker approve of that course? He did not make any objection; he did not say anything.—Did you take it to the Duke of Northumberland? Yes, I did, on the same day.—On the 21st? I cannot exactly call to mind the date." His impression is, that he took it to your Grace the same day it was given to him; your Grace has no recollection of that?—None whatever. I have turned over to all the different parts connected with the letter of resignation, and particularly to Captain Milne's evidence. Sir Baldwin Walker having mentioned that he read the letter to Admiral Hyde Parker, and that Captain Milne was in the room, Captain Milne is asked when it was; his memory is rather recalled to it, and he says that it was the 25th or 26th of April.

3121. Your Grace has no recollection that Admiral Hyde Parker repeated to you the purport of the letter?—He never mentioned the word letter, and we had long discussions; he discussed the purport of the letter, though he never mentioned that there was a letter.

3122. Can you remember when first he discussed the purport of the letter?—On the 26th of April, which was the first day I heard of the order being sent; the minute of the 19th was brought to my knowledge on Monday the 26th of April, by Admiral Hyde Parker himself making a complaint from Sir Baldwin Walker.

3123. Captain Richards has brought under the notice of the Committee a letter written by Captain Pelham, a private letter to him, he being superintendent of Chatham Dockyard; that letter is to inquire whether any political influence was at work to hold back appointments, or to promote men unfairly in the yard at Chatham; I wish to ask your Grace whether that inquiry was at all instituted at your Grace's desire?—By no means; I never knew of it.

3124. In that letter your private secretary states, "My chief is for the best man for the public service, and scorns a job;" and he writes to Captain Richards to inquire as to the appointment of a man at the metal works. To that letter Captain Richards wrote a reply on the 24th of April 1852. Does your Grace remember whether that reply was brought under your notice?—Yes. The first complaint was from Sir Baldwin Walker, which was earlier in April than that. Captain Richards came to me earlier than the 24th; I think on the 12th or 13th he came; and I saw him at the Admiralty.

3125. According to Captain Richards's evidence, it would appear that in that letter, dated the 24th, he requested the opportunity of an interview, in order at least to disabuse your Grace's mind upon the subject. It would appear from that letter that he asked for an interview after that letter; and from his further evidence, it seems that your Grace granted him an interview after he had written that letter. Now, at that interview did Captain Richards bring under your Grace's consideration all the circumstances relating to Ridgeway?—Yes, he did.

3126. He showed then to your Grace how Ridgeway had formerly applied to Sir Francis Baring through his constituents?—Yes, he did; he entered very fully into the case.

3127. And he showed you that Ridgeway, by so doing, had violated the spirit, and indeed the words, of the circular of 1847?—Yes.

3128. Then Captain Richards stated that he was satisfied with the interview with your Grace, and you expressed to him your conviction that he was doing his duty honestly and honourably?—As a matter of course Captain Richards is an officer who would do so; I was perfectly convinced that he would do his duty; he was right not to interfere about those matters as to political influence; I felt confident that he would not do so; and my words were these, "If you ever have any interference in your duty, or if you ever have any complaint to make, come to me, and you may rely upon it I will support you."

3129. If, then, any accusation was made against Captain Richards that he had interfered at all in politics, as that would have been a violation of his duty, are the Committee to understand that your Grace quite acquits him of any such imputation?—No such imputation ever came to me; I never had a question about it; I only mentioned my confidence in the character of Captain Richards; but there was never a question before me about it.

3130. But in that letter which he wrote to Captain Pelham, dated the 24th of April, he says, "I beg and entreat it may be thoroughly sifted to the bottom. If, indeed, I have ever lent myself to keeping any man back from promotion, on the score

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score of politics, I can only have done so either by a negligent abandonment of my duty to the hands of others, or by the forfeiture of my pledged word." Captain Richards, therefore, was anxious that if there was any doubt about it, a full inquiry should be instituted, and the case thoroughly sifted. When this was brought to your Grace's notice at the interview, did you feel so satisfied that you considered no inquiry necessary?—I know nothing about that letter; that letter I was not cognizant of; but Captain Richards came to me and explained the matter very fully, and said, what he, of course, naturally might say, that he never was influenced; and as he was ordered not to take any part, I concluded, of course, that he did not.

3131. Captain Richards's impression was, that he had read the letter to you?—It might have been, but I was not aware of it.

3132. He states, at Question 2028, "I asked him (his Grace) if I had his permission to read my letter to Mr. Stafford to him"?—He might have done so; very likely he did. I am quite satisfied as to that.

3133. Had you heard from Mr. Stafford any grounds for supposing Captain Richards to be a political partisan?—At this moment I do not remember any question about it; certainly nothing to speak to Captain Richards about.

3134. Was your Grace aware that Sir Frederic Smith had applied for the promotion of Ridgeway?—I never heard one word about Sir Frederic Smith having, at any election, or from any one connected with any of the dockyards, either directly or indirectly.

3135. On the 26th of April you saw the Surveyor of the Navy, or had seen him previously to your representing to the Secretary of the Admiralty the annoyance which the Surveyor felt in regard to the issue of the former circular?—If I may explain, there is some little indistinctness in the recollection of those persons. It was on the morning of Monday the 26th of April that Admiral Hyde Parker came to me to say that the Surveyor was very much annoyed and vexed with Mr. Stafford for cancelling the circular of 1849, and that he considered it was a slur upon his character; and Admiral Hyde Parker spoke very warmly and justly upon the subject, as he would when any officer felt anything like a slur upon his character; and he also said that it would lower him in the estimation of the superintendents and officers, and that he did not think, without it was removed from the Surveyor, that he could remain in his office. I told Admiral Hyde Parker that I was quite confident Mr. Stafford meant no disrespect to the Surveyor, and I would send him into Admiral Hyde Parker's room, where I understood the Surveyor was, to remove any impression from the Surveyor's mind that such was the case. That was an interview that lasted about five or six minutes, very earnest on the part of Admiral Hyde Parker, and very just.

3136. After that interview on the 26th, was another circular submitted to your Grace for your approbation?—I sent for Mr. Stafford and told him the circumstance, and all that Admiral Hyde Parker had told me; and I said that it was considered by the Surveyor that this cancelling of the minute had cast a stigma upon the Surveyor, and I was very much afraid that he would resign his office; and that if he did resign his office, I said to Mr. Stafford, who treated it rather lightly, "It is much more serious than you seem to think; for, if he resigns his office, I am not prepared to name a successor;" meaning that he did his duty for the good of the service, and that I did not think it would be for the good of the service that he should go away. Upon that, Mr. Stafford went into Admiral Hyde Parker's room, where the whole circumstances, I believe, took place about the minute that was agreed to; but at the end of about half an hour they came into my room, Sir Baldwin Walker and Admiral Hyde Parker together. Sir Baldwin Walker then explained to me, feeling very much annoyed as to the matter, much in the same words that had been used before, that it was an imputation upon his character, and he felt it as a censure; all of which I wished to remove from his mind, as I did not think that any officer should feel so on any subject unmeritedly. After a few moments, Mr. Stafford came in with a written minute. He read it to Sir Baldwin Walker and Admiral Hyde Parker, at my table, in my room. Sir Baldwin Walker, when it was read, said, "I am perfectly satisfied," and Mr. Stafford answered, "It shall be read to-day at the Board as a minute;" and then they all went away. This does not quite agree with the evidence, but very nearly so.

3137. Had you read the circular before it was submitted to the Board?—It had been read in my room to the Surveyor of the Navy and Admiral Hyde Parker,

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and I was present; that was the first day that I had heard of the circular of the 19th being issued.

3138. That was the first day that you heard of the circular of the 19th being issued?—Yes. I do not know when it was issued; but if the Committee refer to the evidence of Captain Milne, it will appear that he did not know it till it was brought to his notice by the Surveyor; and although, apparently, the Surveyor's letter was read in Admiral Hyde Parker's room to Admiral Hyde Parker, Captain Milne being present, Captain Milne does not quite fix on the date; he thinks it was the 25th, the 26th, or the 27th.

3139. Are the Committee to understand that this was the first time that your Grace gave any sanction to the circular of the 19th of April?—I was cognizant of it before it was issued, therefore I was responsible for it; but this was the first time that it was brought to the Board. Those who were acquainted with it, and had canvassed it, as I had, and Admiral Hyde Parker and Captain Milne (as I now understand) were aware of its contents; we were certainly responsible for it from that moment. How far the other two members of the Board were answerable for what they did not understand, I do not know.

3140. In the words of the circular of the 26th of April 1852, it is stated that the "circular of the 27th of February 1847 will be strictly adhered to, and they deem it desirable to revert to the system then in force, of having all communications on the subject addressed to this office in the first instance;" as you were by this step sanctioning the reversal of the system that had been the system of the Admiralty for some years, may I ask your Grace upon what grounds you took that step?—I will explain what that matter was, by the cancelling, we were reverting to Lord Auckland's original regulations as to promotions in the dockyards; perhaps a master, say a master shipwright, on a vacancy sent three names to the superintendent, who erased one name, which he thought least worthy of promotion; and the superintendent then sent those two names to the Secretary, who selected one of those names, and that selection was the only patronage which the Secretary had in the promotions. The circular of 1849 made this alteration, that the superintendent sent those two names to the Surveyor, and the Surveyor selected one name, and had the patronage. The question of patronage was one between Lord Auckland and his successor, it was not one that we interfered with at all; it was reverting to Lord Auckland's regulation. My opinion then was, and my opinion now is, that Lord Auckland was right.

3141. Does your Grace mean that the Surveyor had the absolute choice of one name, or that when the two names were sent to him he forwarded them to the Admiralty with his remarks upon the subject?—I do not think that he was justified by the circular of 1849 in making the selection, but he always did, I believe; I was never cognizant of anything that he did; but reading attentively the circular of 1849, I do not think it justified the Surveyor in taking the patronage.

3142. The circular of 1849 merely, as I understand it, ordered that the correspondence from the superintendents should go through the Surveyor before it came to the Admiralty?—So I understood it.

3143. Whereas, previously, it had been the custom, as the Committee have it in evidence, that it should come first to the Admiralty, and then be forwarded to the Surveyor for his remarks?—Yes.

3144. Now, in reverting to the system which had been in force previously to 1849, did your Grace intend that the submissions from the superintendents should be invariably sent to the Surveyor for his remarks?—I expected, of course, that the Secretary and the Surveyor would, upon all occasions, meet on amicable terms, and know everything that was going on of the kind; but I believe, if the Committee inquire, the practical effect of the circular of 1849 was, that the Surveyor, receiving two names from the superintendent, erased one, and the other name went to be registered by the Secretary at the Admiralty. I believe that practically to have been the case. I speak only from hearsay. I think on inquiry, the Committee will find that, practically, that was the case.

3145. Had you seen the circular upon the subject then?—No, I had not.

3146. Was your Grace aware whether or not, since you had been at the Admiralty, any promotions in the dockyard had taken place?—I did not know that any had taken place, because no such matter was ever brought before me, either by the Surveyor or by the Secretary. I did not know that anything of the kind

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was done. Of course there must have been promotions going on; but they never came before me.

3147. It has been stated to the Committee, that according to the circular of 1849, the system was this: first, that the principal officers should select three names, and then that the superintendent should erase one, then that the two names should be sent to the Surveyor of the Navy, and that he should forward them to the Admiralty, with his remarks upon them. But I understand from your Grace (and it is an important point, and therefore I repeat my question), that the practice of the Surveyor of the Navy was to erase one name, and so absolutely to make the appointment?—I have understood so; and that was why I mentioned it, as the Committee may wish to have an opportunity of ascertaining; I have it from hearsay.

3148. Before proceeding to cancel the circular of 1849, did your Grace actually ascertain what the facts were in that respect, or did it rest merely upon hearsay from the Secretary?—Entirely from what I had heard.

3149. Did your Grace consult other persons besides the Secretary upon that point?—I am not aware whether I did or not. I think the Surveyor of the Navy told me that he erased one name; I think so: it was merely in conversation, and he told me so, I think.

3150. You are not aware whether you consulted Admiral Hyde Parker upon the subject of cancelling the circular of 1849?—I did not; I considered when the Secretary told me that he had the power to cancel what Mr. Parker had done, that he had that power; and I relied upon him.

3151. You relied upon the statement of Mr. Stafford that he had complete power to cancel that circular?—Yes, that he had complete power to cancel the circular, which was only a circular, as he told me, of a former Secretary.

3152. As this was a question concerning very materially the administration of the dockyards, did you Grace consult any of the superintendents before altering the system?—I did not.

3153. Did your Grace advert to the letter of the 8th of May 1848, the letter written by the Secretary of the Admiralty, under the directions of Lord Auckland, which, at that time, declared what were to be the duties of the Surveyor of the Navy?—I have read it.

3154. That letter states, does it not, that it is the duty of the Surveyor to regulate and systematize the whole of the labour of the dockyards?—It does.

3155. And to submit alterations in the number of artificers, and to make his observations upon vacancies to be filled up, and superannuations to be made?—Yes.

3156. All those points seem to render it necessary that the communications from the dockyards should invariably be sent to the Surveyor, do they not?—As I understand that letter of Lord Auckland's, it was, I think, a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury; and with regard to the duties of the Surveyor of the Navy, it mentions the very important duties he has to fulfil, giving him a general supervision and control over the dockyards, but not allowing him any patronage; he is there as a sort of control or check, or a sort of judge, if anything was going on wrong, or anything was partially administered, but it gave him no patronage at all. But whatever reason there might have been for not giving the Surveyor an unnecessary duty in Lord Auckland's time, it was very much increased last year by the pressure, of converting all the line-of-battle ships into steam-ships, which obliged me on the 1st or 2d of June to appoint Captain Warden, under the Surveyor of the Navy, to take the supervision of all the dockyards, as the Surveyor of the Navy was so much confined to Somerset House, and he then sent to Captain Warden to examine into whatever was necessary.

3157. Then the Committee are to understand that your Grace did not agree with Admiral Hyde Parker in his view of the value of the circular of September 1849?—I think clearly, that as between Lord Auckland and his successor, Lord Auckland was right in his views; quite correct.

3158. Did your Grace intend, after the cancelling of the circular of September 1849, that the monthly returns which came up from the dockyards should still be sent to the Surveyor for his remarks?—Everything should remain exactly as it was, and no one order of Lord Auckland's was changed by that act.

3159. The circular of September 1849 runs thus: "In order that the Surveyor of the Navy may be enabled to check and properly control the new establishments of the dockyards, which have been recently promulgated, all reports and correspondence

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respondence on the subject of vacancies, promotion, or changes of the officers and workmen are, in future, to be transmitted through him, instead of their Lordships, direct." That circular seems to show that they had previously been submitted to him after going to their Lordships, does it not?—I cannot say. It appears further, that in Lord Auckland's time they went direct to the Secretary, and of course he must have been in constant communication with the Surveyor.

3160. This circular merely seems to make the alteration, that they are to pass through the Surveyor's Office first?—It does.

3161. It seems, therefore, to show that they had gone to the Surveyor's Office before?—I should think so, certainly; and that on every occasion the Secretary and the Surveyor must work together. It would be impossible that the service could be carried on without that.

3162. The alteration made by your Grace's sanction or authority was not directed at all against the superintendents of the dockyards; it did not in any way diminish their power of recommending?—On the contrary, it threw the whole responsibility upon the superintendents of the dockyards, they alone being responsible for their dockyards, being in the position of captains of ships, and responsible for everything which happens; and I would throw more responsibility on them if I could.

3163. When you say that you threw the whole responsibility upon them, the Committee may presume therefore that your Grace had perfect confidence in the honesty and straightforwardness of the superintendents of the dockyards?—Certainly.

3164. And that they were not in any way acting with a political bias?—It was against all orders. It is generally against all orders. It always was, and it is now, and has been for some years past.

3165. Then are the Committee to understand that your Grace expected that when the submissions from the superintendents of the dockyards came, the Secretary of the Admiralty would consult with the Surveyor?—Certainly.

3166. This question was asked the Secretary of the Admiralty: "First, as to the promotions: what was your notion of the system in force before 1849; was it that the superintendents of the dockyards should send up several names, and that the Secretary of the Admiralty should select the names of those sent up for recommendation? Yes.—That he should select? Yes.—Without reference whatever to the Surveyor of the Navy? Yes, without any reference generally to the Surveyor of the Navy." Are the Committee to understand that your Grace intended on the one hand that there should be a general reference to the Surveyor of the Navy?—Of course. I should think, under any circumstances, whoever had that duty to perform, whether the Surveyor or the Secretary, they ought to communicate the one with the other.

3167. Did your Grace give any directions to the Secretary of the Admiralty that future promotions were not to be made without consultation with the Surveyor?—No, I gave no such directions; but I know that it was the intention of the Secretary of the Admiralty to consult with the Surveyor; that was his intention at the time.

3168. You believe that to have been his intention?—Yes, I do.

3169. On the 10th of May 1852, a letter was sent by the Surveyor to your Grace, through your private Secretary?—Yes.

3170. Upon receiving that letter, did you consult any of the Lords of the Admiralty upon it?—I did not.

3171. Did your Grace show the letter to Mr. Stafford?—I did, but not before well considering it. When I received that letter, it was a very few days after the personal disputes between the Surveyor and the Secretary had been settled, as I considered settled for ever, by that Minute of the Board. I considered that terminated all their disputes, and that there was an end of them. When I received this letter on the 10th of May, on looking at it attentively I thought I saw a desire to revive those personal disputes, and I thought it would be very inconvenient to the public service that there should be anything like a difference of opinion between the Surveyor and the Secretary, so as to prevent the daily correspondence which ought to have taken place; and upon looking it over, I saw one case, and one case only, of a direct charge, and that was the case of one of the men employed in the dockyards being appointed to an office who was incompetent. I then was perfectly satisfied that that was the case of Ridgeway; the case of Ridgeway had been before me, one month previously; that case occurred before there was any idea

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idea of cancelling the order of 1849, and therefore, when I saw that revival of those things which had nothing to do with the apparent complaint, I looked at the whole tenor of the letter, and I thought it best to show it to Mr. Stafford, and I showed it to him in confidence, saying that I should not make it public, as I thought it would be exceedingly inconvenient to the public service.

3172. Ridgeway's case was a case in which the opinion of the superintendent was passed over, was it not?—The case of Ridgeway was one that was represented to me first of all by the Surveyor of the Navy, and a day or two afterwards by Captain Richards, when he came to me, as I have explained, and I encouraged him always to come to me when he had any complaint to make. I then sent to Mr. Stafford and told him of the complaint that was made by Captain Richards, and I told him that he had no right to interfere with the promotions, which were entirely in the Surveyor's hands, which, I think, showed my feeling at that time that the Surveyor had actually the promotions. The Surveryor told me that he had the promotions, and not the Secretary, that the Secretary had all the entrances into the dockyards, but not the promotions. I told Mr. Stafford that the regulations of the dockyards must not be infringed, and having given him that admonition about it, I asked him what had been done in the case of Ridgeway, and it was this: A letter was written to Captain Richards, saying, "Ridgeway is only acting on probation; whenever you find him incompetent, report it to the Admiralty, and he shall be immediatly reduced to his former rating." I heard no more from Captain Richards, and I did not see him for two months afterwards. When coming up from Sheerness, he came on board the "Lightning." I then had about half an hour's conversation with him, and at that time he did not allude to Ridgeway's case, he made no complaint. I may now say, that from the date of that circular I never heard of any complaint from any of the superintendents of any one of the dockyards. With regard to Captain Richards, he had an opportunity then, as well as at any other time that he came to me, to make a complaint, and also Commodore Seymour who has given evidence. When I was at the dockyard at Devonport, he had constant opportunities of saying any thing he liked; I walked about with him for an hour together, and I gave him every opportunity, and encouraged him, and should encourage every superintendent of a yard to tell me everything he thought it necessary that I should know, and I never heard one complaint from any one of the superintendents of any one of the yards from the date of that circular of the 26th of April.

3173. Captain Richards having stated that Ridgeway was incompetent for the situation to which he was proposed to be promoted, did you consider it in accordance with that circular of 1847, that he should be promoted on probation after such a report?—I did not, and it was for that I told Mr. Stafford that I could not permit the regulations to be broken. Then it became a question with me, whether Ridgeway's appointment should be cancelled, or whether he should remain, Captain Richards having power to report him whenever he pleased.

3174. According to the spirit of the regulation of 1847, any person in the dockyards who applied otherwise than through the superintendent, was violating the orders of the Board of Admiralty, was he not?—He was.

3175. Does your Grace know in what way Ridgeway had applied for his promotion?—I do not.

3176. You were not aware that Sir Frederic Smith had applied through a clerk in the Admiralty, for him?—I was not, nor have I ever heard the name of Sir Frederic Smith on any occasion mentioned at the Admiralty that I know of; but I must observe that that was before the change, before the minute. The Board of Admiralty in their minute stated that they were bound strictly to adhere to the regulations of 1847, and it was during the time of the regulations of 1849 that Ridgeway's case occurred.

3177. Yes; but before that time the Admiralty were bound not only to adhere to the circular of 1847, but also the circular of 1849, were they not?—They were, except in the change that the circular made; the circular of 1849 made a change.

3178. But the circular of 1849, would not have allowed, any more than the circular of 1847, the promotion of a man declared to be incompetent by the superintendent of the yard?—Certainly it would not.

3179. Then the step as to the promotion of Ridgeway even for a temporary appointment, was, as I understand, in violation of the spirit of the circular of 1847?—It was.

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3180. When this was brought to your Grace's notice, you considered it hard upon that man to be put back?—Yes; but I thought it better that Captain Richards should report him incompetent if he was so, and that he should be reduced as incompetent, rather than for any other cause.

3181. As he had been put forward, you wished him to be tried, and if found incompetent, then put back?—Yes; as he was put into the place, I thought it would be better that there should be a public judgment of the superintendent upon his incompetency, and that that would be a better reason for his being reduced than any other.

3182. Did you press upon the Secretary of the Admiralty the importance of strictly adhering to the circular of 1847?—At that time I impressed upon him that no regulation of the Admiralty must be violated.

3183. If he did afterwards make any appointments not in accordance with the regulations of 1847, they were made contrary to your Grace's sanction and intention?—Certainly; and contrary to the orders of the Admiralty; it was impossible for me to contemplate any abuses; quite impossible.

3184. In the letter of the 10th of May, in which the Surveyor stated that vacancies were unnecessarily filled up, and that men were advanced not upon merit, but that incompetent men were appointed; and in one instance, I think he says that the Surveyor's authority was put aside because he would not lend himself to political promotions; you did not, as I understand your Grace, institute any inquiry into those allegations?—I did not; I thought an inquiry would be very inconvenient, as I have said; but I thought, as I have before mentioned, that I considered the feeling throughout the letter was rather to revive animosities which I hoped had terminated. I should say, that the Surveyor of the Navy when he was appointed by Lord Auckland, had the same duty to perform that he had under this cancelling of the minute; he remained under Lord Auckland till Lord Auckland's death; and what he should have done was, to do his duty as he had done it before; he was not placed in a worse situation than under Lord Auckland.

3185. When you saw the Secretary to the Admiralty on the subject of that confidential letter of the 10th of May, did you see any letter which had been written by Captain Richards to the Secretary of the Admiralty, with respect to another case, viz., upon the case of William Groves?—I never heard of it; no other case ever came before me from Captain Richards.

3186. A letter was read in answer to an application respecting Groves, at Question 2068: "With reference to their Lordships' directions of the 5th instant, to state whether William Groves, who is a furnace-man, is qualified to fill the existing vacancy for a forgeman, I have the honour to enclose copies of the officers' representations," &c.; then it goes on, and he states, "I respectfully submit my opinion, that his being placed in the present vacancy could not fail to operate prejudicially to the public service." That I understand was never brought under your Grace's consideration?—Never; I never heard of it till I saw it in the evidence.

3187. Does not your Grace consider that appointments in the dockyards being well or ill made, tend very much to the economy and efficiency of the service?—Certainly.

3188. In giving them up to the Secretary, more especically at a time when he had explained to you that there was dissatisfaction among his friends, were you not somewhat fearful that political influence might be used in those dockyards?—The expression of dissatisfaction amongst his friends I never saw, till that letter was published by the House of Commons, after Easter; the expression never came before me.

3189. Had the Secretary of the Admiralty never represented to you that his friends were dissatisfied?—I am not aware that he had; he said that the patronage of the Admiralty was given against the Government; he said that; and it is very possible he might, in some other conversations; but I do not recollect it.

3190. The case of Groves was never brought under your Grace's notice?—Never.

3191. Then on the 24th of May there was a letter to Captain Richards, written from the Admiralty, to this effect: "Having laid before my Lords your letter of the 23d instant, No. 81, reporting that you had entered in the vacancy for a forgeman in Chatham Yard, a man from private trade, named Matthew Fowler, and requesting

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requesting instructions in this case, in consequence of William Groves, furnaceman, having been in the meantime appointed to this situation by their Lordships, they direct me to acquaint you that they cannot but express their surprise that you should have filled up a vacancy, which has remained open since September last." I wish to ask, does your Grace remember whether it was brought under the consideration of the Board?—I should think certainly not; it was in the department of the Secretary; I have no recollection of it.

3192. Your Grace will perceive that this was a rebuke to the superintendent of the dockyard for having filled up the vacancy from the private trade. So far as your Grace can remember, that rebuke was not brought under your notice before it was sent?—No, not at all.

3193. Did your Grace receive, in the course of the summer, several remonstrances from Admiral Hyde Parker on the mode in which the promotions were going on in the dockyards?—Admiral Hyde Parker had daily and frequently conversations with me, and my conversations with him several times were on the subject of the dockyards under his particular control; and he particularly objected to the circular of 1849 having been rescinded; he particularly objected to it, and he told me that he should bring it before the Board; that was after the 26th of April, on one or two occasions. He knew generally that my feeling about the dockyards was very much the same; I do not say as to what was doing, but generally as to dockyard influence, was the same as his own. In speaking to me about it, I entered very confidentially with him into it. I should not mention what was said, of course; but when he said that he would bring the subject before the Admiralty, I encouraged him to do so, and told him that I wished he would. I thought, on my own part, that it was a very fair subject of discussion, and it would be a very good thing to do so. He never did bring it before the Boaad; of course, there were daily opportunities, if he had been so minded, to do it. Our habit at the Board was, that each member was asked each day after the business was over, whether he had anything to bring forward; and therefore there was an opportunity for every one of the members to bring it forward if they knew of anything wrong.

3194. Admiral Hyde Parker having frequently remonstrated with your Grace upon the system that was going on, did you, in your interviews with the different superintendents, endeavour to ascertain from them what was really going on?—I did not ask the grievances, but when I walked arm-in-arm with Commodore Seymour for an hour together, and encouraged him to talk, I expected that he would tell me if there was anything wrong. It was not for me to say, have you anything wrong to tell me; but he had frequent opportunities, if he had chosen, to tell me anything constantly during the time I was at Devonport.

3195. Did he in any way represent that he was not satisfied with the course of promotions?—Never a word passed, nor from any one of the superintendents; Captain Richards was the only one who ever represented a case, and that case was Ridgeway's; that case was before the cancelling of the circular, and that was the only representation made by any one of the superintendents of any one of the dockyards.

3196. Until your Grace saw this evidence, had you any notion that Admiral Hyde Parker had such a feeling upon this subject, that he should have written to the Surveyor of the Navy in these words, "I quite agree with you about the master smith, and have no doubt the change will be advantageous to the public service. Richards was with me this morning, complaining of the jobbing taking place in Chatham Yard; my advice was, resist in any good case; it is lamentable that this system is to go on through a secretary who fancies himself the First Lord; it is disgusting, and the sooner it is exposed the better." Had your Grace any notion that a correspondence of that kind was taking place between the First Naval Lord and the Surveyor of the Navy?—No, I certainly had not; I think it would have been better had it not been so brought forward; I think it a confidential communication, and if I was to use confidential communications, I have no doubt that language very strong might sometimes pass. I very much lament that that has been brought forward.

3197. Your Grace was aware that Admiral Hyde Parker had a strong feeling upon the subject?—Yes, he had a strong feeling upon the subject; he had a very strong feeling for the Surveyor of the Navy having the patronage; very strong indeed.

3198. On the 8th of October Admiral Hyde Parker states, that he had written about the removal of the master smith from Chatham to Portsmouth, stating how injurious

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injurious it would be to the public service; had he written to your Grace upon that subject?—Yes, he had written to me on the subject after the matter was over, so far as I recollect, after the appointment was made; he wrote me a letter then, when I was just coming up to London, representing the case very strongly; it was made up of two parts, one was of a public nature, and the other, as to the way in which Mr. Stafford had treated him during the time, which he felt very deeply indeed; he considered it a very deep affront, the manner in which it was done. The whole arrangement of the appointment was just before I came up to London, and if they had waited another week, all the world would have been present. I think it was done rather hastily, and had better have been postponed; it was rather irregular also, and I was most vexed that that was the manner in which Mr. Stafford had treated Admiral Hyde Parker; and I certainly used on that occasion, strong language to show that I thought it was wrong. I said, an officer who is respected by the Navy, and by all his brother officers, was entitled to the greatest respect, especially at the Admiralty. I used that kind of language, and I afterwards put it into the hands of Captain Milne, as a mediator, to see whether he could so arrange it that Mr. Stafford might do that which was agreeable to Admiral Hyde Parker on the subject. My anxiety in the whole affair was really so to arrange matters, as to relieve the mind of Admiral Hyde Parker from any feeling that any affront had been offered to him.

3199. Then Admiral Hyde Parker had written to your Grace, to state that appointments were made without regard to the public service?—It was at the time of Cotsell, I think; it was that particular case; there was a difficulty in treating that case, because it was irregularly done. Admiral Hyde Parker made an appointment which he had no right to make; he did it rather hastily, and it is difficult when a matter is done wrong at the beginning, to put it to rights. I was not present; it was never brought before me; it was once only I think by letter, on the application of Wells; there was an answer sent when I happened not to be present, being at Windsor, and then I waited till there was a memorial from Wells, which must have taken place, for remuneration. I thought then that the whole case would come again before the Admiralty.

3200. You considered that it was an irregularity of Admiral Hyde Parker making a temporary appointment of that kind?—Yes, it was irregular; it was not his appointment to make.

3201. You had given the appointment to the Secretary?—Yes, I had. It was not one of those in which there was any degree of feeling on the part of an old officer who had served in the dockyard, therefore I gave it up to the Secretary.

3202. Are the Committee to understand that your Grace afterwards sanctioned the appointment of Cotsell?—It went regularly through, so far as the members of the Board were concerned, I certainly was, as a member, responsible for everything that was done.

3203. Had your Grace considered, then, the expediency of appointing a man from the private trade?—I should say, upon principle, that every man who has served his life in the dockyard, has a right to expect promotion. It is only when the public service requires that a man should be brought in for any especial purpose, that injustice must be done to the workmen in the yard for the good of the service. I consider that it is always expedient to bring in a man from the private yard when it is for the good of the service, though I should consider that it inflicted injustice on the men in the yard.

3204. If your Grace found that the men in the yard were not doing a proper amount of work, you would introduce men from the private trade into the yard?—I think it would hardly be that. I think it would be in such a case as this, if there were some great improvement. I was anxious that the eyes of the Surveyor should be opened, in consequence of our vast steam increase; and I sent a committee round to look at what was doing in the yards. My object was, to bring to the knowledge of the Surveyor all that was doing in the private yards; and if there was any great improvement, as I believe there was, in the private yard, it should be brought to the notice of Somerset House; and I should have expected that that committee would be the legitimate means of bringing forward anything that was new, and also they might have the means of recommending men from the private trade.

3205. Did that committee represent to your Grace, that the skill in private yards exceeded the skill in the public dockyards?—In some portions it was not complete;

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complete; the committee never made a complete report, but I hope all those improvements will gradually be adopted.

3206. Are the Committee to understand that your Grace was satisfied with regard to the appointment of Cotsell?—He never came before me.

3207. Except that his warrant was made out by the Board's order?—Not when I was present. I forget the date, but I think I was not present.

3208. Sir *B. Hall.*] It was the 1st of October?—Then I was not present.

3209. *Chairman.*] Did your Grace direct Mr. Stafford, the Secretary, to visit Devonport in June?—No, I never directed any visit of the Secretary anywhere; he went with the Board to the different dockyards.

3210. Are you aware whether or not it was usual for the Secretary to make visits to the dockyards unaccompanied by the Lords of the Admiralty?—I should think there was no harm in it; I am not at all aware of what the custom was.

3211. Your Grace did not order any steamer to be put at his disposal?—Mr. Stafford came to me one day, and said, that Admiral Hyde Parker was good enough to permit him to go in the "Black Eagle" to Devonport, if I had no objection. I said, by no means.

3212. Did Mr. Stafford state to you the object of his visit?—Certainly not. Admiral Hyde Parker had the regulation of the yachts going about, and the small vessels; indeed, all the vessels. I do not know whether it was a special order, or whether a vessel was ordered to Devonport in the usual routine.

3213. Had you any information of the questions about to be asked in the House of Commons on the 22d of November before they were asked?—We have the Votes of the House of Commons, and they are always read to the Board after the business of the Board is done; therefore, if it was on the Votes, of course I did know it.

3214. Your Grace does not recollect that it was brought to your notice in any way?—I recollect the letter of resignation being moved for, and never having heard of it, I said to Mr. Stafford, who was at the other end of the table, the letter being directed to him, "What letter is that?" Admiral Hyde Parker was on my right hand, close by, who apparently knew of the letter; and Mr. Stafford said that he did not know; and the only other person who spoke was Sir Thomas Herbert, who said, "I never heard of it;" and that was all that passed.

3215. Admiral Hyde Parker did not at that time mention any knowledge of the letter?—Not any; he did not say anything.

3216. The votes would show the nature of the questions that were going to be asked?—I really do not know.

3217. You do not remember that?—I do not remember; I know nothing about it.

3218. I refer to the question whether any correspondence had occurred upon that subject?—Of the resignation?

3219. Yes.—It is quite clear I knew nothing at all about it.

3220. You would have considered it a private letter written to your Grace, and as not coming in any way within such a question as that regarding correspondence having occurred?—I should certainly have expected not. I received a great many letters from Sir Baldwin Walker, but I never made any of them public, not one.

3221. You invariably made them private?—Invariably.

3222. I will hand to your Grace the original minute of 1849 (*the same being handed to his Grace*), and you will see on the other side that there is an initial, which any one in the office would know to be Sir Francis Baring's?—Yes.

3223. So that it was approved by him?—Yes.

3224. The circular to cancel that, as I understand, was not so approved by yourself or any other Lord?—So far as I know.

3225. Sir *B. Hall.*] What was the first information that your Grace had of Mr. Stafford's intention to cancel the circular of 1849?—I can hardly say; I think a few days before it was cancelled.

3226. What statement did he make to your Grace as to his intention to cancel that circular?—He said that he had examined the books, and found that the circular was of Mr. Parker's issuing, and not a Board minute, and that he had the same power as Secretary as Mr. Parker had, to cancel it, and that he should do so on his own responsibility.

3227. Mr. Stafford has stated to the Committee that he was induced to cancel that circular in consequence of great dissatisfaction having existed among his political friends, and in consequence of representations having been made to him

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in reference to the patronage being used for political purposes; when Mr. Stafford intimated to your Grace his intention to cancel that circular, did he allude to any such representation having been made?—No; he had mentioned in former conversations his own reasons why he wished to cancel it, and that the patronage of the Admiralty was given against the Government. That was only among many others.

3228. Did he mention to your Grace that representations had been made to him by his political friends?—I am not aware that he did.

3229. At what time did Mr. Stafford bring to your Grace a copy of the circular of the 19th of April?—He did not bring it to me.

3230. I understand the first time your Grace heard of that circular having been issued was on the 26th of April, on which day another circular was agreed upon by the Board for the purpose of removing any imputation upon the Surveyor of the Navy?—Yes; but it was in consequence of Admiral Hyde Parker coming to me from the Surveyor of the Navy that brought to my notice the issuing of the first circular of the 19th of April. It was about an hour afterwards, for the whole that was done on that day, the 26th, was done in about an hour, and it was only on the 26th that I ever heard the subject mooted in that way, and it was done with much warmth on the part of the Surveyor of the Navy and on the part of Admiral Hyde Parker, from having been so treated, so far as the censure upon him was concerned; the whole was completed upon the 26th, in one hour, and it was over before the Board minute was read at the Board.

3231. Up to the time that Admiral Hyde Parker came to your Grace, you had no knowledge of the issuing of that circular?—I think not, so far as my recollection serves me; I think I had not heard of it before the 26th of April.

3232. The Committee are to understand that your Grace relied entirely upon the assurance of Mr. Stafford that he had the power to cancel the circular of 1849, irrespective of any order or minute of the Board?—Yes.

3233. As to the letter of the 10th of May, I think your Grace stated that you showed it to Mr. Stafford, and you desired him to consider it as a private communication to your Grace; and you then cautioned him as to interfering with the duties of the Surveyor, and that you could not permit the regulations to be broken?—That was observed when Captain Richards made his complaint about Ridgeway.

3234. Not with reference to that letter?—No, it was upon the case that was brought to me, Ridgeway's case.

3235. Has your Grace had a copy of the Minutes of Evidence which were taken on Friday last?—I looked at them, and I saw Commodore Seymour's name was there; I had only received them half an hour before I came here.

3236. It appeared in the evidence that was given before this Committee on Friday last, that the Secretary of the Admiralty arrived in the "Black Eagle" at Devonport, and that after his arrival in the "Black Eagle" he gave a dinner to many of the political partisans of the Conservative candidates, at which one of the Conservative candidates was present, and the agents of the Conservative party, and some of the chairmen of the Conservative party. Previously to Mr. Stafford's visit to Devonport in the "Black Eagle," did he give any intimation to your Grace, or any idea whatsoever, of his intention to take any such step as that?—Never.

3237. He did not intimate, in the slightest degree, that he intended to go there for any political object, or that he would use any political influence in going there?—Certainly not.

3238. What were the orders given for the sailing of the "Black Eagle"?—It was entirely under Admiral Hyde Parker; he had the distribution generally, either by telegraph or a scrap of paper, to prepare.

3239. Was there anything said at the Board about Mr. Stafford's visit to Devonport?—Never.

3240. Not at all?—No.

3241. Does your Grace remember whether any orders were given about the sailing of the "Retribution," when Mr. Stafford went out?—That was entirely under Admiral Hyde Parker too.

3242. And not under your Grace's cognizance?—Not at all.

3243. Did your Grace receive any communications, through Captain Pelham, with regard to appointments for political purposes at Devonport?—I did not receive

receive any such communication from any one; through Captain Pelham I knew that he had written a letter to Commodore Eden, but I did not see the letter.

3244. Your Grace did not take any steps in consequence?—No; it was a private letter, like his letter to Captain Richards, which he wrote without any authority.

3245. Acting merely on his own responsibility?—Entirely.

3246. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Your Grace has stated, have you not, that you were cognizant of it, but you did not sanction the issuing of the minute of the 19th of April?—Yes, I was.

3247. From which, I presume, though your Grace did not sanction it, your Grace saw no impropriety in its being issued?—I saw no impropriety in its being issued.

3248. Admiral Hyde Parker, in his evidence in answer to Question 329, states, that he considers it a grave matter for the Secretary of the Admiralty to issue a circular without the cognizance of the Board of Admiralty; and in answer to a further question he states, "I did not bring it before the Board; I had remonstrated upon it repeatedly to the First Lord;" and then he goes on to say, "That the First Lord's opinion was perfectly with my own upon the subject;" will your Grace have the goodness to inform the Committee how it was, presuming that you did agree with Admiral Hyde Parker, that before the issuing of the minute you saw no objection to it, and that subsequently you agreed with Admiral Hyde Parker as to the impropriety of it?—Admiral Hyde Parker said that the Secretary had no right to cancel a Board minute without the sanction of the Board. Mr. Parker's minute was not a Board minute. When I spoke to Admiral Hyde Parker about it, I encouraged him to bring it before the Board; I thought that it was a subject which they ought to discuss, and I thought it ought to come from him, and that it would not be right for me to put myself apparently in opposition to the Secretary; and for other reasons, I preferred Admiral Hyde Parker's bringing it forward, and I agreed with him that if there was harm to be done by it, then of course we should cancel it, which might have been done at any time; I did not know that there was any harm.

3249. He says, "I am quite sure the First Lord lamented it having taken place, and the impropriety of it, as well as myself"?—On several occasions I refused to interfere myself in cancelling the order; it was only when I thought that the power belonged to the Secretary that I acquiesced in it.

3250. Then your Grace subsequently disapproved of it?—My feeling went very much with Admiral Hyde Parker; if he could prove that it was a Board minute, then I thought it ought to be brought before the Board to deal with it; and if they found that it was only a Secretary's minute, and not a Board minute, and if then the Secretary again had the power to deal with it, it was a question of what the Secretary might do; and the Secretary's power at the Admiralty is very large, and very undefined; therefore I could not say before the discussion about it, what might have been the result. Our discussions were very fair; we were guided by whatever the result of the opinion of the majority was, and I thought it ought to be discussed, if brought forward by Admiral Hyde Parker, his feeling being also very strongly in favour of the Surveyor; it is a question of difficulty on both sides.

3251. What is your opinion now upon the subject?—I think that Lord Auckland's order was right. My opinion was then, and now is, that between Lord Auckland and the order of his successor, Lord Auckland is right; therefore I perfectly agree with the cancelling of the order. At the same time, if there was any incorrectness in the way in which it was done, if it ought to have been done by the Admiralty instead of by the Secretary, I thought we ought to have it discussed, and that Admiral Parker should bring it forward.

3252. With regard to the letter of resignation, your Grace stated, did you not, that you never knew of Sir Baldwin Walker's resignation until November 1852?—Not until it was called for in the House of Commons.

3253. In fact, the letter that Admiral Hyde Parker put into your hands, and left with your Grace a day or two, you never read?—My impression is that the letter that was read by the Surveyor of the Navy to Captain Milne and Admiral Hyde Parker was that very identical letter; but I see by Captain Milne's evidence that it was not read until the 26th, if it was that letter. Admiral Hyde Parker came to me immediately, and he represented, I dare say, what was in that letter very warmly, bringing it forward for the first time.

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3254. It appears by Admiral Hyde Parker's evidence, that he put that letter into your Grace's hands about the 21st or 22d?—He is not very exact about the date; it was some days after, I think. The whole of the transaction was comprised in one hour of time; and it was morally impossible, if the letter was brought by Admiral Hyde Parker, and read for the first time, that it could have been in anybody's hands a day or two afterwards. It was destroyed as soon as that minute was settled, or soon afterwards. I think it is a mistake.

3255. Do you think that Admiral Hyde Parker's recollection is not clear as to those details?—Yes. He refers to it afterwards on the 23d of November; I think it is on the 23d of November. Sir Baldwin Walker came to me to ask about that letter, when I told him that I did not know of its existence, and that I had not seen it or read it. He said that Admiral Hyde Parker came into the room, which is true, and that he said to Admiral Hyde Parker, "How is it that the Duke has not seen this letter?" And Sir Baldwin Walker says that Admiral Hyde Parker's reply was that he had given it to me. I certainly do not remember that, but I do recollect that Admiral Hyde Parker said to Sir Baldwin Walker, "Sir Baldwin, when you gave that letter to me, you told me you would trust to my judgment, and abide by my decision: on consideration, I cancelled that letter, and you have no right to ask me about it now." I do remember that perfectly. I will answer for the last words, and the others very nearly. They were said with extreme warmth and great emphasis.

3256. Sir *B. Hall.*] Will your Grace be good enough to inform the Committee what your impression was of the intention of the circular of 1849; the precise intention of it?—To give the patronage of the dockyards to the Surveyor, I conclude.

3257. Whether the patronage was to be in the hands of the Surveyor absolutely or not, the Committee are to understand that your Grace thinks that it would be not only desirable, but that it would be expedient and necessary for the public service, that before promotions are made, a communication should be made to the Surveyor of the Navy in reference to them?—Certainly; he having the general supervision and control of the dockyards, it is necessary that that intimate communication should be kept up between the Secretary and the Surveyor.

3258. The Surveyor being also to a great extent responsible for the amount of the Estimates?—There is the difficulty; he is responsible to nobody, and the Secretary is responsible to the House of Commons; and it is really giving great patronage and great power to an officer who has no responsibility; it is one of the great difficulties; as I said before, the Secretary is responsible to the House of Commons at once, but the Surveyor of the Navy is not responsible to any one. The House of Commons may call him before them; but you have not him every day there.

3259. If the Surveyor of the Navy is not to be consulted upon the promotions, and to some extent upon the appointments which take place in the dockyards, may not the expenditure be greater than it would be under the proper control of the Surveyor, who is the immediate officer of the yards?—I think there ought to be that consultation between the Secretary and the Surveyor constantly upon every subject of promotion in the dockyards.

3260. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Your Grace stated, did you not, that you would prefer the whole responsibility of the promotions being thrown on the superintendents, and if possible you would throw more into their hands?—The master of a trade, the master shipwright, being responsible in the first instance; then the superintendent is made responsible, being the next check. But the object in everything under Government is to have a series of checks, and to hold every person, as far as possible, who has great control and great check, above suspicion, and he ought to have no patronage. I would raise the Surveyor of the Navy above suspicion; he always must be exposed to that if he has patronage.

3261. *Chairman.*] Was it not your Grace's desire, in cancelling the circular of 1849, to take away the patronage which you imagined the Surveyor exercised?—I was unwilling to interfere; I did not wish, without more experience, to do anything; I refused it on every occasion. It was not unwillingness on my part; I had no reason in doing it.

3262. Your Grace, being the head of the department, allowed it to be done?—Yes, I did; believing that the Secretary had the power to do it.

3263. You did it under the impression that the Surveyor would otherwise enjoy the patronage of the promotions?—No. I beg pardon, it was a mere question between

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between the system of Lord Auckland and the system of his successor, and I think that Lord Auckland's system was right.

3264. Your Grace then considers that Lord Auckland's system was right, because you think that the system of his successor actually gave the patronage to the Surveyor of the Navy?—Yes, I do.

3265. Had your Grace ascertained whether the Surveyor really had that patronage or not?—He told me that he scratched out a name, I believe that always he did so, and sent one name to the Secretary, who virtually thus had to register the Surveyor's patronage.

3266. If the Surveyor proceeded to scratch out a name under the circular of 1849, he exceeded his authority; for it says, "In order that the Surveyor of the Navy may be enabled to check and properly control the new establishments of the dockyards which have been recently promulgated, all reports and correspondence on the subject of vacancies, promotion, or changes of the officers and workmen, are in future to be transmitted through him, instead of their Lordships, direct"?—It is so.

3267. He, therefore, exceeded the authority given him by the circular of 1849?—If he did so, which I believe he did.

3268. Sir *H. F. Davie*.] You would prefer recommendations for promotions coming from the superintendents to the Secretary, to their going through the Surveyor to the Secretary?—I should.

3269. But that would, in point of fact, only be transferring the patronage from the Surveyor to the superintendents?—No; it makes no difference as to that. The first recommendation is from the shipwright, he gives three names, and the superintendent scratches out one; the superintendent has no choice, he forwards two names out of the three either to the Secretary, under the one system, or to the Surveyor under the other.

3270. Without making any suggestion?—He scratches out one, which shows that that one is least worthy of promotion.

Commodore *Henry Eden*, R. N., called in; and Examined.

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3271. *Chairman*.] YOU are the Superintendent of Woolwich Dockyard, are you not?—Yes.

3272. How long have you been superintendent?—Since December 1848.

3273. Previously to that, what office did you hold?—I was private secretary to Lord Auckland.

3274. Do you remember the Report of the Committee of Revision, in 1848, expressing an opinion that the smitheries in the yards were behind those in the private trade, and recommending that a master smith should be selected from the private trade for Woolwich?—I think that was a short time before I went there; I knew all about it.

3275. You found in the smithery there, a man from the private trade?—No; I put him in.

3276. When you went there, will you state the circumstances?—When I entered there I found the smithery, as I thought, very far behind what it ought to be in these days; there was no machinery, and the whole thing worked very ill; and Mr. Humphreys, the chief engineer, was always telling me that nothing would do, but to get somebody in from the private trade. Upon that, I asked Mr. Humphreys if he could recommend anybody; and he said no; but he was soon going on leave, I think it was, or on duty, to Liverpool, and he would try if he could not find one. He went down there, and when he came back he recommended to me Mr. Black, who brought very high certificates of every description. I spoke to Sir Baldwin Walker about him, and told him about the man. Sir Baldwin Walker desired that he might be sent for, and he came up and produced his certificates; and I talked to him about different things, and I thought he would do, and I questioned him with the view of putting him in, and, after examining him, I felt perfectly satisfied that we should have great improvement by having him. This I told to Sir Baldwin Walker. It is a long way back. It must have been about, I should think, February 1850; for I had been on leave, and Sir Baldwin Walker saw him, and was perfectly satisfied with him, upon which he was appointed master smith, on probation, telling him, that if at the end of six months the Board were satisfied with him, he should be confirmed master smith, upon the salary, whatever it was.

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3277. Did you, after that examination, admit him into the yard at once to work?—I think he went and got his things, and came there to work.

3278. When he came, did he bring down with him a warrant appointing him?—He brought, I took it for granted, his appointment, and that the warrant would be sent to him at Woolwich, waiting his arrival.

3279. He would have received a letter appointing him, and the warrant would be sent to you, would it not?—Yes; which he takes up, paying a fee for it, if I recollect rightly.

3280. Lord *Hotham.*] Like taking up a commission?—Yes.

3281. *Chairman.*] That is the regular course in which appointments are made in the dockyards?—Yes.

3282. Should you admit a man into the yard if you received the letter appointing him, after you had made inquiry respecting him first, though you had not received the actual warrant?—I have heard what has passed upon that subject, and what took place at Portsmouth, with regard to Mr. Wells; and if he had produced to me the letter that he did, having received a notification from the Admiralty, I should, without hesitation, have accepted him; but in doing so, I should have written to the Admiralty, and said that he had not brought his own proper appointment, but under the circumstances of the letter which he had brought, I had taken him into the yard, and I hoped it would meet their Lordships' approbation.

3283. Could you say from what date his salary would commence; from the date of the warrant, or the date of the letter?—I should think from the date of his appearance.

3284. When a letter is sent to the superintendent of a dockyard, appointing a man, a letter is usually sent to the Accountant-general, mentioning it?—Yes.

3285. That seems to indicate that payment will commence from the date of the letter?—Yes, he receives it from the date of his appointment.

3286. Have the men who work in the dockyard at Woolwich votes for Greenwich?—Yes, for the borough; some have, and some have not.

3287. You have had one or two elections for Greenwich?—Yes, I think three since I have been there.

3288. Can you give the Committee any information respecting the elections at those different periods; can you state when those three elections were?—One was in 1849, I think; and the other must have been in 1851; and the other, I think, in 1852.

3289. There was a vacancy, was there not, and an election took place, in 1849, for Greenwich?—Yes; Mr. Barnard died.

3290. On the occasion of the first election did you caution the men that there should be no canvassing in the dockyard; or had you any reason to fear that there would be any canvassing in the dockyard?—We have always looked out to prevent it; but on one occasion, the latter one, I did find out, I think it was Mr. Chambers and some of his committee, in the dockyard going about; and I sent the police, and desired the police to tell them that nothing of that sort could be allowed, and that they must go out.

3291. This was in 1849; at the time of that election did you find there was any interference with your submissions as to recommendations?—No, not in 1849.

3292. You submitted the names as usual, and you found no counteracting influence?—No, I think every one that was sent up went regularly forward, and it was confirmed. Our books will show that, if anybody states to the contrary.

3293. Your impression is, that there was not any counteracting influence?—Yes.

3294. In 1851, there was another contest, was there not?—Yes.

3295. Can you state to the Committee whether or not at that time, the circular of 1847, and the circular of 1849, were both fully adhered to?—I should say they were.

3296. You had not then to complain of any undue influence counteracting your proper recommendations?—No, I should say not.

3297. There was another election in 1852?—Yes.

3298. In 1852 some cases were brought to your notice, one, the case of a man being promoted above William Lacey, George Campbell. In answer to Question 41, Sir Baldwin Walker stated, that George Campbell had been promoted, having only nine years servitude, above William Lacey, who had 18 years and 11 months servitude, who was passed was over; do you recollect that case?—I do.

3299. What

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3299. What was your recommendation upon that occasion?—This was my letter: "Sir,—There being now five vacancies for leading men of shipwrights, one, *vice* Smart, superannuated in November last, for which Edward Hardin and William Lacey were named for selection; we now submit for selection of four, J. Tiltman, G. Campbell, J. Bristow, G. Banister, S. R. Martin, T. Kemp. Rd. Kemp, W. Cullum."

3300. Those were eight names for four vacancies?—Yes; but Lacey and a man named Hardin, had been recommended before.

3301. They had been recommended as far back as November 1851?—Yes; and Thomas Hardin ought to be at the top of this list, and would be, in all probability, in the account the Surveyor keeps of the recommendations; and I believe that when this went up, the Surveyor put Hardin at the top of this list, and that he having seen it when it went back, recommended Lacey.

3302. You considered Lacey's case would have been considered, from sending his name?—Precisely; I did what I believe is shown in the minute by the Surveyor, that he was to be preferred.

3303. How would the Surveyor, since only eight names are to be sent on, proceed to deal with the eight names necessary for the four vacancies?—I suppose he would leave out the two lower ones.

3304. Kemp and Cullum; and put in Hardin and Lacey?—Hardin had been promoted.

3305. Then he would only leave out one name; the last one?—Yes; and put in Lacey at the top.

3306. Out of those names, which were the names promoted?—Campbell, Bristow, Banister, and Cullum.

3307. Those names were all in the list, and therefore, according to the circular of the Admiralty, they had authority to select any four they pleased, as usual?—I should conclude that the intention would be to take the upper ones, without there was any decided fault to be found with the leading people placed in that rotation; it is for the Secretary or the Surveyor of the Navy who looks into it, to say, and that is what I take to be a check upon the Surveyor and officers of the yard, in sending up eight names, to see that they do not improperly recommend men.

3308. They send up the names that they think most fit for promotion, and they send up four as a check upon themselves?—Precisely so.

3309. As you have had some experience for some years, do you consider that that was a departure from the practice of the Admiralty in the selection of the names?—I should say it was; I think so.

3310. Do you know when Hardin was promoted?—I am not sure; I think it was the 8th of May, but our books will show that, if necessary.

3311. According to the submission of the names, he ought to have been promoted before the 8th of May, as I understand, or else he should have come into that list?—The entry was on the 8th of May, Edward Hardin.

3312. He was one of the names sent on, and promoted?—Yes.

3313. It was stated that Bristow was promoted in preference to William Lacey?—Yes. (*A Paper was handed in.*)

3314. Lacey, it appears by this document that has been handed in, was not promoted until the 30th of September 1852?—No, he was not; I think he was recommended three separate times.

3315. Are the Committee to understand that that, according to the practice as to dockyard submissions, was an unusual course?—I should say it was.

3316. Cullum had also been promoted in preference to William Lacey?—Yes.

3317. That was another time when William Lacey was passed over?—Yes, it was all at one time. Those were all done at one time. The mark will be seen there in red ink; the underlined were selected.

3318. In this case Cullum was selected, at the age of 37, in preference to three men placed above him, but they were all younger in years?—Yes.

3319. Do you consider it fair to let a man's age tell at all in those promotions?—If the Committee will look at the numbers on the list, they will see that Cullum was very far below the rest when they passed their examination, that is, in practical work as shipwrights, using the different tools. (*A Tabular Statement was handed in.*)

3320. This is a tabular statement, headed in one column "Practical," and in another

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another column "Arithmetical"?—Yes; and they make up a sum for the whole, that is, the total number. One man, as the Committee may see, makes up 1,000 total, and another man makes up 400.

3321. Then it shows here that Tiltman has a great superiority, as a workman, over the last, Cullum?—In ability as to arithmetic, and in his craft.

3322. My question referred to his duties in the dockyard?—Yes. It is to be observed, that Cullum has eight years and eleven months of servitude, and Tiltman has only six years and four months; but then it is for whosever business it is to take that into consideration; and as we take it, we look upon the six years, with those high figures, as giving him the preference.

3323. It was also stated to the Committee, at Question 46, that Prowse, with only two years' servitude, was selected in preference to William Stone, who had 30 years' servitude. Do you recollect that case?—Yes, I do.

3324. What was the recommendation there; were there two names sent up?—Two names were sent up for selection in the room of the man who had been appointed liner to the mast-house; one was William Stone, shipwright, of 30 years and seven months' servitude, and the other was Prowse, a shipwright, with two years and nine months' servitude.

3325. How many marks had those men?—They did not examine those men in that way; it is a different thing for a writer; they were not examined at all. We know all the best sort of men for that particular duty. They were recommended by the master shipwright; and I believe myself that Prowse, perhaps from being more modern in his writing, was superior, perhaps in it, though to a slight degree; but the other man had 30 years' servitude, and was what is called a single-station man, which gives him 6 *d.* a day more than the other man had; so that he was already higher than the other man, as being a single-station man.

3326. Was passing him over on this occasion in accordance with the usual practice, so far as you have been accustomed to it?—I should say that the man with the greater length of servitude, being a single-station man, ought to have had the preference.

3327. It was perfectly within the regulations of 1847 and of 1849, because the names were sent up, and the selection was made?—I look at the two regulations as the same, with the exception of taking it from the Secretary and giving it to the Surveyor.

3328. Having been for some time superintendent of a dockyard, and having been previously private secretary to Lord Auckland, you would probably know the Admiralty practice; is it your opinion that the circular of 1849 gave the appointments to the Surveyor?—No; he submitted them.

3329. When he received the two names sent up by you, your understanding was, that he would have to strike one out?—No; he would recommend one, and send the two names, with his observations.

3330. Were both those men reported equally eligible, Stone and Prowse?—Yes, they were; I think they said that Prowse was perhaps better in his writing, being of later date than the other.

3331. Prowse was considerably the younger man, was he not?—Very much younger.

3332. Putting aside the claims of the two men, and looking to the interests of the service, was not it for the interest of the service rather to take the younger one than the elder?—I should say not, because I think, in the case of a man with 30 years' servitude, if superseded by the other, it would not look well in the yard to see him passed over.

3333. Then for the general discipline, and to excite alacrity and industry in the men in the yard, you consider that it was most desirable that he should not have been placed over the other?—Yes.

3334. There was a case of Rahill that was brought before the Committee, a rigger, who was selected in preference to Phillips, at Question 49. Will you state the circumstances of that case?—This is the recommendation (*producing the same*). "There being a vacancy for a leading man of riggers, in consequence of the superannuation of George Smith, I beg to submit for your Lordships' consideration the names of two riggers, for selection of one, viz. Samuel Phillips, entered as rigger 17th November 1838; Daniel Rahill, entered as rigger 26th November 1841; both excellent men, and qualified for the situation: but I beg to recommend Samuel Phillips for promotion, he being the senior in the service." (signed) "*John MacDonald*, Master Attendant." This is what comes to me from the Master

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Master Attendant, in whose department it is. I merely write upon that, "Submitted for the direction of their Lordships," and send it up.

3335. In that way you frequently send up the names of two men, do you not, according to the regulations, although you have in your own mind no doubt as to which the preference should be given?—Precisely so.

3336. You stated, did you not, that looking to the interests of the service in the dockyards, you think it of great importance to adhere to the system, and to let the men have an equally good chance of promotion?—Yes.

3337. You objected to those preferences, because you thought it interfered with that rule?—Yes, I have objected to it now; I never did at that time; I did not consider it within my province. It would come to me from the Admiralty.

3338. That was no violation of the letter of the circular, though you thought it unfavourable to the good of the service?—Yes.

3339. Was it rumoured in the yard that any political influence was at work, or was it brought to your knowledge in any way?—Not that there was; of course it was rumoured that such was the case.

3340. That being rumoured, and those departures from what had been the usual proceeding having occurred, would that, of itself, be prejudicial to the interests of the service?—I should say it would.

3341. Were there any other names mentioned as having been passed over at Woolwich?—I think not.

3342. A statement was made to the Committee as to the filling up of vacancies; does the superintendent of the dockyard offer any opinion upon that subject, or is that merely with the Surveyor?—We send up a list once a month, of the vacancies in the yard, and whenever there are those vacancies, I have always written to the Surveyor, begging that they might be filled up, for I have always found such a press of work, that I was anxious for every man I could get; and I wished that a vacancy should not be left open an hour; I have always looked at my establishment as under the mark for the work to be done.

3343. That is exclusive of the factory altogether?—Yes, the dockyard establishment.

3344. There is a large factory at Woolwich?—Yes.

3345. What is your establishment at Woolwich that you consider under the mark?—The joiners particularly.

3346. What is the whole number on the establishment, and the whole number of extra men?—The whole number is 998.

3347. Does that include the extra men?—We have no extra men; we have about 12 boys; the grand total is 998; and then there are the convicts, 350.

3348. The force of the convicts is irregular?—They are more under the Home department.

3349. Do you ask for as many convicts as you can get?—From the ship I do; but there has always been the same number on board the convict ship ever since I have been there.

3350. All the men on board are brought into your yard to work?—I think they have 500 on board; they keep about 100 on board at school in the day, and there are some sick.

3351. Having 1,000 men under you for the work you have to do, you say you do not think that number sufficient?—No; we are very hard run, I think.

3352. When was the establishment fixed?—Just at the time they went round on the revision.

3353. In 1848?—Yes.

3354. Were you before continually hard run for want of sufficient men?—Yes.

3355. Therefore, you pressed that all the vacancies should be filled up?—Yes.

3356. Vacancies usually were reserved for lads coming out of the school, were they not?—They were.

3357. Is that from the central school at Portsmouth?—No, from our own apprentices.

3358. Vacancies are usually kept for them, are they not?—Yes. Then the Surveyor knows all the vacancies that there are at the different dockyards, and he being the master of that, very likely would not allow me to fill up some vacancies, knowing that there were apprentices coming out of their time at some of the yards whom he would put into my yard. I know nothing of it, but I am anxious always to get men.

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3359. Therefore in that respect it is an advantage for the service that the Surveyor should be allowed to offer an opinion upon the reserving or filling up of the vacancies?—No doubt about it.

3360. As the superintendents of the dockyards cannot know the general state of the different yards?—No.

3361. When the vacancies have been filled up, and the lads leave the school in the yard, what becomes of them; are they taken as supenumeraries?—If there are not vacancies they are put on the supernumerary list for shipwrights, as supernumerary shipwrights, till vacancies occur.

3362. In that way you get your vacancies filled up?—Sometimes. Generally speaking, I think the Surveyor would look ahead and not fill up vacancies, looking at the contingencies of those boys coming on; he knows that others are coming out of their time that year.

3363. In 1852 you pressed to have the vacancies filled up, did you not?—I did.

3364. In what month was that?—I cannot say.

3365. In the spring of 1852?—Yes.

3366. Were those vacancies filled up?—I think they were.

3367. Then were there any lads coming from the school in your yard who remained as supernumeraries?—Whatever vacancies were filled up, none were filled up of the shipwrights; none of that sort; our apprentices were not, I think, interfered with in that way in our yard.

3368. When you proposed that this vacancy for a leading man of the shipwrights should be filled up, you did that without any knowledge of the apprentices who might be coming out of the central school?—Quite so.

3369. The Surveyor had not only to consider the apprentices in the schools in the different yards, but also those in the central school at Portsmouth?—Yes; of that I know nothing.

3370. You spoke of Phillips having been passed over; was he passed over a second time?—I think he was. There was a man by the name of Davis.

3371. He was passed over again on the 2d of December 1852, was that so?—Yes; on the 2d of December 1852 there was another vacancy for a leading man of the riggers, and there were four names sent up.

3372. Samuel Phillips, with 14 years' servitude; Thomas Gould, with 11 years' servitude; John Davis, with nine years' servitude; and Henry Little, with five years' servitude. John Davis was selected?—Yes.

3373. In this case there is no examination of any kind as to their qualification?—They are seamen, and the master attendant recommends them according to their ability as seamen, and their conduct; they are all good men.

3374. It was stated as to the vacancies, that the commodore superintendent at Woolwich wrote an urgent letter to the Admiralty, calling attention to those vacancies, and stating the great necessity there existed for shipwrights to be appointed; that was so, was it?—Yes.

3375. You not, of course, knowing what disposition the Surveyor might intend as to the apprentices from the central school?—Just so.

3376. With regard to those men, the one that you spoke of who had 30 years' service, which was Stone, and Prowse, did you state to Mr. Stafford that it was your private opinion that the man of two years' service was more particularly suited for the situation of writer than the man of 30 years' service?—I do not think it amounted to that. I thought that he was the better scholar, and certainly would have been as good a man, perhaps better in that position; but I never could overlook the 30 years' servitude, and his being a single-station man.

3377. You thought him better, supposing they had equal claims as regards servitude?—Yes, and age too. I think that ought to be taken into consideration.

3378. You thought it bad for the general interests of the dockyard to pass over a man with that length of service?—Yes.

3379. The case of a man of the name of Smale was brought to the notice of the Committee. He was promoted upon the removal of Cotsell to Portsmouth?—Yes.

3380. He was appointed master smith at Chatham?—Yes.

3381. Did you make any recommendation in his favour?—No.

3382. Would it, according to the usual practice of the Admiralty, have been regular

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regular that you should have given an opinion upon Smale's qualifications before his promotion?—Perhaps the Committee will permit me to state all I know of the case. Some months before, Sir Baldwin Walker wrote me a private note, and asked me if I could recommend Smale as foreman to the Pembroke Yard. I wrote him back a private letter, to say that I could not; that I considered he was muddled by drinking; he drank and smoked a great deal. I consulted the master smith, and he thought that he was not fit for the position. His health, I think, was a good deal affected by his having been a great drinker in his younger days, and a great smoker. And then again, Sir Baldwin Walker, some months after, wrote me the same again, and asked me if I could recommend him as master smith to Chatham Yard. Having always myself been very strong for getting smiths from the private trade into the yards, I talked to Sir Baldwin Walker about it, and said that I thought it would be a great thing to get another man in from the private trade, though not under my superintendence; but, taking the good of the service into consideration, I said this to Sir Baldwin Walker; and I wrote him that I could not recommend him then. I think it was a long time after this, after Wells had been appointed, Mr. Stafford came round the yard, and came into the smithery, and asked me about Smale. I was averse to saying anything in his favour; but he pressed me a good deal, and I said, "Well, perhaps he might do in another yard;" meaning to say that I should be sorry to have him. He seemed anxious to appoint him, and I gave in the point in that way.

3383. From what you had seen in your own yard, you were a great advocate for introducing a person from the private trade into the smithery?—Yes, and I will state my reasons. The people in the dockyard have been brought up, from time immemorial, almost from apprentices; they are put on as hammer-men, and then they can rise to first-class smiths. The thing has gone on so long without seeing any improvements, simply from their being always in the dockyard, and they do not know what improvements have taken place. I have seen with my own eyes, that the smiths' work in the dockyards is very inferior to what it is outside, and also they do not get the same amount of work out of the men as from the men introduced from the private trade. In fact, I would myself bring in other men to work from the private trade, to make the men work more than they do.

3384. You think that it would produce more emulation, and be a benefit to the public service?—Yes. I might be said to be, in saying this, harsh to those already there; that I was taking the bread away from them; but I think I am bound to do all I can for the good of the public service.

3385. Looking to the efficiency of the dockyards, you think the best thing is to secure that the establishment shall be in the highest possible state of efficiency?—Yes. I see in the newspapers great complaints about the dockyards, and it makes me very desirous of improving them.

3386. You have occasionally seen private smitheries, have you not?—Yes; I have been into the places over at Blackwall.

3387. You have been struck with the mode of working?—I was immediately struck with the extraordinary difference that I saw when we got Mr. Black into the yard.

3388. It is stated in the evidence, at Question 752, "Commodore Eden's expression is, 'There is as much difference between the present condition of the smithery and what it was formerly, as there is between light and darkness'"?—Yes.

3389. Now you have had Mr. Black for two years at work?—He came in September or November 1849.

3390. You have stated that it was rather more than two years ago, when you spoke about the advantage of introducing persons from the private trade into Chatham?—Yes.

3391. Have you ever visited the dockyard at Chatham?—Yes.

3392. Since you have had a man in your own yard from the private trade, have you paid a visit to the yard at Chatham?—Yes.

3393. Comparing it with the work in your own yard, you thought that a man from the private trade would be beneficial there also?—Yes; mine was only a superficial visit; but I am convinced that his work is superior.

3394. When you got this man, Black, was he recommended through any private influence, or any private channel?—Not the least; Mr. Humphreys went to Liverpool, and picked him out.

3395. There was no political preference?—Not the slightest.

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3396. Did he afterwards take any part in politics?—Not that I am aware of; I cannot say.

3397. You communicated with the Surveyor of the Navy respecting finding a man from the private trade for the yard at Chatham?—Yes; the Surveyor said to me, "You did so well in getting yourself a master smith, as we want one for Chatham will you try and find one for us?" and I said I would, and I would speak to Mr. Black. I accordingly spoke to Mr. Black, and Mr. Black told me of Wells. I told Sir Baldwin Walker of it, and Mr. Wells was sent for, and I talked to him, and examined him, and put some questions to him so far as I could; and I saw his certificates; and I told Sir Baldwin Walker that I thought he would do; upon which I think Sir Baldwin Walker saw him, and it was eventually settled that he should go on probation to Portsmouth.

3398. Do you know anything of the dockyard at Portsmouth?—Not much; I have been there all my life, looking into it occasionally, and going through every part of it; and I know this much, that Mr. Black told me (he was on that occasion visiting Portsmouth with his son), that he had seen the smithery there, and he thought it was almost as bad as he had found the Woolwich smithery originally.

3399. Did you communicate with Admiral Hyde Parker at all upon the subject?—I always told him I thought it would be a very good thing for the service.

3400. On the 2d of October was it stated to you that Cotsell had been appointed master smith of the Portsmouth Dockyard?—I cannot say the time; I recollect hearing that he was appointed.

3401. Did you see Admiral Hyde Parker at that time?—Yes, I did.

3402. It has been stated before this Committee, that in your presence Admiral Hyde Parker expressed himself very much annoyed at the substitution of Cotsell for Wells?—He did.

3403. And he said, "If this is the case, either Mr. Stafford or I will leave the Admiralty"?—Yes.

3404. Do you recollect that?—Yes, I do.

3405. Then he showed to you that he was very much vexed at the alteration that had been made?—Yes.

3406. Then was it after Cotsell was removed to Portsmouth that Smale went to Chatham?—Smale went to Chatham immediately, I take it, that Cotsell was appointed, from Chatham to Portsmouth; I imagine so.

3407. Then in both those cases, both at Portsmouth and Chatham, you thought the smitheries might be put under a person from the private trade with advantage?—Yes; both, I believe, from all I have heard of Cotsell, that he is a very good man; a very good workman.

3408. You stated, did you not, that still your impression was, that the smitheries at Chatham were not equal to what they would be under a man from the private trade?—Yes.

3409. In December 1852, it has been stated before this Committee, that some boys were ordered to be examined for shipwrights' apprentices out of the usual order; do you remember that case?—I heard of it afterwards; I was on leave at the time.

3410. You heard that it had taken place in your yard?—I heard that seven apprentices had been ordered by the Admiralty to be examined. That is not the usual way in which it is done.

3411. What is the usual way?—The usual way is, that during the year the shipwrights in the yard, or the men in the yard, came and asked to have their sons put in as apprentices; and I take their names down, and tell them at the end of the year they shall be examined, and those that turn out best on examination, according to the numbers that are wanted, those at the top of the list will get it.

3412. Was the sending down of those seven names for examination without the usual competition a hardship upon the children of the men in the yard?—I think it was. I do not know whether those were the children of the men in the yard or not; I was not there at the time.

3413. You think it is best to have a general examination, so that the best boys may have the appointment?—Yes; if the father is in the dockyard, or in the service, and is a meritorious man, and has children, I think it is better that they should all go up for competition, and appoint those who come out the best. I also say, "It will depend upon your son's qualification."

3414. The preference will be given to the most deserving?—No; but the one that

that passes the best examination; also taking into consideration the number of children the father has to provide for.

3415. You take into consideration the claims of the father?—Yes, to a certain extent.

3416. At the last election, in 1852, were any flags supplied from the dockyard? No, not that I am aware of.

3417. In the previous elections, in 1849 or 1851, had any flags been supplied?—There was not a complaint, but it came to my ears that one of the clerks in the dockyard had taken a flag to use, and I inquired into it; as far as I could make it out, it was not true; but he had been very active in canvassing for Admiral Dundas, I think it was, I cannot be positive. I reprimanded him severely, and I told him if ever it happened again, I would most assuredly write and recommend his being sent out of the service. He was afterwards complained of; and that, and what he had done before, made me pass him over when it came to his turn for promotion.

3418. Did you approve of the circular of 1849, for the interests of the service, as well as of the circular of 1847?—Of both; but I thought that the circular of 1849 was the best. I thought it was very desirable that the promotions should go through the Surveyor.

3419. But so understanding the circular of 1849, namely, that the promotions should go through the Surveyor, you did not consider that the circular gave the Surveyor the patronage of the promotions?—No; the recommendations, and to make his minute upon the thing as it went on; and then to go to the Admiralty, and the Admiralty to deal with it as they liked.

3420. As in this Committee some imputations have been cast upon the Surveyor's Office, will you state whether, from the time that you went to Woolwich, you have seen anything to make you doubtful respecting the fair carrying out of the intentions of the Admiralty by the Surveyor of the Navy?—I should say that no man could carry out things in a more proper way, according to the circular, than Sir Baldwin Walker always did; nothing would have induced him to depart from it.

3421. If he himself did all that was right, do you think that any person in his department exercised any unjust influence?—I could not say that, the least in the world, the one way or the other.

3422. Have you perceived that all your submissions, from the time you took the superintendence of the dockyard in 1849 up to April 1852, have gone fairly forward?—My impression is that every submission made from the dockyard from us, went in the rotation in which the names were placed upon the papers; that is my impression, and the books would show that.

3423. Your impression is that everything went forward according as you could have wished, with regard to the interests of the service?—Yes; and according to the recommendations sent up.

3424. With regard to the apprentices, is it usual for the superintendent of the dockyard to put down the names?—A man comes and says, "Sir, I wish you would recommend my son for an apprentice at the next turn;" then I send him to my secretary, and he takes his name down, with an account of the man, who he is, what his merits are, and so forth; and then we examine the boys, and send up the names of those who turn out the best upon examination.

3425. You tell him to put down any name, and when you have got 10 or 12 names, what do you with them?—I keep them all till very nearly the time for the examination and appointment, which is about December.

3426. Then you select the best after examination, without any reference to the Admiralty?—Yes; but we send them up, and the Surveyor may send us an equal number of names down, and desire that they may be examined as candidates.

3427. Do the Admiralty ever send names down and say, "In addition to your own add these names, and examine them"?—Yes.

3428. That is quite the regular course?—Yes; I should say so, if there is a claim upon the service.

3429. Then that which was irregular upon certain occasions was the sending down a certain number of names and desiring them to be examined, and not admitting the other lads?—Saying nothing about others; it was a positive order for this number of people.

3430. Sir *B. Hall.*] Previously to the election of 1852, did you receive any

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communications from any persons connected with the Admiralty respecting the election?—Not that I recollect.

3431. Had you any conversation with any one connected with the Board in relation to elections?—Not that I can recollect.

3432. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] The general election took place in July 1852?—June or July.

3433. How early in that year did you hear of any political move taking place in the yard or in the borough?—I do not think I heard anything of it till after the election was over.

3434. No canvassing, to your knowledge, was going on?—No.

3435. Sir *B. Hall.*] The Committee had before them a person named Triscott, a storekeeper at Devonport, who stated in the course of his evidence, that he was sent down, I think he said, to Deptford, and that he was frequently in Woolwich, He was sent down there in reference to some inquiry into the mills; do you know anything of that inquiry?—No; I know that he was there on that duty.

3436. Do you know whether he was frequently at Woolwich?—I cannot say; I think I recollect seeing him there once.

3437. You do not know whether he took any part in the election?—No.

3438. Do you know what the inquiry was at the mills?—Trying one set of mills against another, Bovill's mills against what was used in the Victualling Yard, Deptford.

3439. How long did that committee sit?—I should think two or three weeks, if that is what he was upon; I think it was upon that.

3440. Were there persons selected from the different yards to sit upon that committee?—Mr. ——— went from us, and Mr. Pinhorn went up from Portsmouth, and this gentleman went from Plymouth.

3441. Do you know anything of a person named Stephen Becks?—Yes.

3442. Was he entered as a labourer?—Yes.

3443. Has he lost an arm?—Yes. I will state the circumstances of the case. Mr. Stafford wrote to me, saying, that he wished to put this man in the yard as a labourer, he had been a seaman or marine on board the Retribution, where the poor man lost his arm whilst Mr. Stafford was on board, and whether I could find anything for him to do; I inquired of the boatswain, and he said he might drive the team, or pick nails, and he would be useful. I have no doubt in my mind that Mr. Stafford had got permission from the Board, under the cruel circumstances of his losing his arm, to put him into the dockyard in that way; but I wrote a private letter to Mr. Stafford and told him that I could not enter him without the permission of the Board; having one arm, it was contrary to the regulations; but if they would send down an order that he was to be entered, I would do so immediately; that order was sent down, and the man was entered. I thought that very fair; Mr. Stafford went very much among the seamen, and certainly felt very much for the poor man losing his arm, while he was on board the ship; he could drive the team or pick nails.

3444. *Chairman.*] You stated, did you not, as regarded the reception of men into your yard, that if Mr. Wells had presented himself, you having a letter from the Admiralty to receive him, and having, from the documents which he presented no doubt of his identity, you would have received him?—I should have done so, but it does not follow that all superintendents would. I think I am there to exercise my own judgment, and I certainly should have done it, reporting the case to say what I had done, that he had presented such a paper, and that I had taken it upon me to set him to work.

3445. Lord *Hotham.*] What is your opinion of the propriety or otherwise, of persons employed in the dockyards being precluded from voting or interfering at elections?—I think it would be an extremely good thing; at the same time, I do not think that it would altogether overcome the evil. I think that they would get their houses, and things of that sort, put in other people's names.

3446. *Chairman.*] You do not think that that would supersede the necessity of vigilant watching against any political influence being exercised?—No, it would not; it would to a certain extent, no doubt.

3447. Lord *Hotham.*] Still you think that that would be a good measure to adopt?—I do; I think it might go far to remedy the evil, but not do it altogether.

3448. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] In fact, it would lead to the evil of fictitious votes?—Yes, it would.

[The Witness withdrew.

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3449. *Chairman.*] YOU are the Secretary to the Admiralty, are you not?—Yes.

3450. The permanent Secretary?—Yes; or rather, the Second Secretary.

3451. When were you appointed?—In January 1845.

3452. Lord *Hotham.*] You are re-appointed by every Board, are you not?—Yes, I have been.

3453. Is that necessary?—No; no re-appointment. It has been usual when a new First Lord has been nominated, to send for me, and merely to state, "I hope I shall have the benefit of your services," or something of that kind; there is no re-appointment.

3454. It has been stated before this Committee, with reference to the appointment of Wells, that the letter naming Wells, and that the appointment, had your signature?—Yes.

3455. It has also been stated that you must have signed it inadvertently?—It is so.

3456. Will you explain how there was that inadvertency on your part, in signing those letters, for there were three different letters, one to the Surveyor, one to the Superintendent, and one to the Accountant-general?—I will explain. The letters which come before me for signature may be divided into two classes, the first class being those which are addressed to principal officers or to superintendents, and which do not specify the name of the person to whom they are addressed, but merely his office. For instance, if it were the Surveyor of the Navy, the letter would be addressed "Surveyor of the Navy," as one of those letters was; if to the superintendent of a yard, it would be addressed "Commodore or Admiral Superintendent" of such a yard, not Admiral Fanshawe, or Commodore Seymour, or Sir Baldwin Walker, nor anybody by name. These I call general letters, the minutes for which I in general have no cognisance of. The minutes for such letters are made by the Lord who presides over the particular department to which the letters relate. I therefore sign them, knowing that they are a rescript of the minute of the Lord entitled to make the minute, and I have perhaps before me a hundred in a day. It has been stated that on one occasion I have signed 407 letters in one day. I have taken the trouble to see how many I could sign in an hour, and by merely glancing the eye over I could not sign above 100 in an hour, and in one day alone it would take four hours to sign them; but these letters are necessarily signed very rapidly. When a letter is addressed to a principal officer or the Surveyor of the Navy, I merely glance at it. The other class of letters are those which are addressed to individuals; it may be to a Commander-in-chief, it may be to a captain, or to a person unconnected with the Admiralty; these letters necessarily claim more of my attention. I sometimes have to alter them, slightly it is true, so great is the correctness of the gentlemen in the office, but now and then I find a little necessity for alteration; if it comes with the name at the bottom it requires my attention, but I might sign many in a day addressed to official officers of the Admiralty, by command of their Lordships, with my name at the bottom, without really knowing the entire contents of these letters, which seldom consist of more than a few lines.

3457. How came this letter to be brought before you for signature?—During the day, at various hours, letters are brought up to me for signature, from 10, 20, to 50 at a time; indeed, throughout the day, letters are brought to me; and therefore I go on signing, I should say from one or half-past one, with little intermission.

3458. As the letter to Wells ought not to have been signed, ought it to have been written?—Yes, because there was a minute of a Lord for the writing of that letter, and the gentleman who has to write the letter has no discretion; a minute comes to him with the initials, it may be of the Secretary, or of one of the Lords, and no discretion is left to him, and he writes the letter as a matter of course; therefore the letter ought to have been written.

3459. Then what discretion have you about it?—Perhaps your Lordship means by what discretion I held back that letter.

3460. You signed it, you did not hold it back?—I was speaking of those that were signed. I may state, that I signed those letters as a matter of routine, without

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observing further than that they were addressed to the Accountant-general and to the Surveyor.

3461. Have you any discretion in signing letters when they are brought up to you?—I have only discretion to alter them when brought up, if I do not think that they are in the terms of a minute of which I am cognisant.

3462. This letter having been written upon a minute of a Lord, why was it irregular to sign it on your part?—I did sign it; does your Lordship mean to ask why I kept it back?

3463. You ought to have signed it, and I thought that you stated that you ought not to have signed it?—No, I usually sign every letter that comes before me.

3464. You sign it, and you exercise your discretion as to sending the letter?—It was so in this case.

3465. I thought that you did send forward the letter?—A certain number; the three went forward inadvertently.

3466. When you had signed them, you would, if you had noticed it before, have withheld them?—Yes; if I had noticed what I was signing at the time, I should certainly have withheld them.

3467. What discretion had you as to withholding the letter?—That discretion which my acquaintance with the business of the office and its routine affords me.

3468. The letter is written upon the minute of Admiral Hyde Parker, and the person writing it has no discretion; having written it, he sends it to you for signature; you sign it as a matter of course. If you withhold it, do you communicate with the person who ordered it to be written before you withhold it?—No, I did not in this case.

3469. Was Admiral Hyde Parker at the Admiralty at the time?—He was.

3470. Then, as a matter of courtesy to the person who had directed the letter to be written, was not it necessary, before you withheld it, to acquaint him with some reason why you withheld it?—I think there was, perhaps, a want of courtesy there, but it was unintentional.

3471. Will you state why you withheld the letter?—Because it was the appointment of a person, which appointment did not rest with the Lord who had made it.

3472. Did you do that in consequence of any instructions that you had received, or had you received any instructions as to the withholding of any letter with regard to promotions?—None whatever.

3473. Had you received any recommendation or any suggestion to keep back promotions till the return of Mr. Stafford?—Not to keep back anything.

3474. What was it that you were told to do; had you any instructions from Mr. Stafford?—I had very little from Mr. Stafford, so little that I do not think I could call to mind anything that he said himself, further than, perhaps, in passing, "I leave you to look after my business." But I was aware, as the Duke of Northumberland has stated, that it was known at the Admiralty that the civil appointments of the navy were confided to Mr. Stafford. I was aware of that; and Mr. Stafford's private secretary, Mr. Grant, I think, on the very day that Mr. Stafford left, came into my room and said, "Here are the names of the gentlemen for clerks' appointments; if there are any vacancies in the dockyards or Somerset House for clerks, here are the names that Mr. Stafford wishes you to put in." Thereby leaving me in possession of Mr. Stafford's views as to these particular appointments, I really being merely left as *locum tenens* for Mr. Stafford as to the appointments which it was known at the Admiralty belonged to him.

3475. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears in the evidence given by Mr. Stafford before this Committee on the 3d of May, at Question No. 1879, "Why did he, Captain Hamilton, not sign it in the present instance?—Because I had asked him to keep back the appointment." That is the appointment of Wells. What instructions had you received from Mr. Stafford in reference to keeping back that appointment?—I had not received any.

3476. Then he did not ask you to keep back that appointment?—No, not that appointment; but on seeing that very question, I being then at St. Leonards-on-Sea, I wrote to Mr. Stafford to say that I had observed that question put by you, and the answer given by him; that I concluded it was a misquotation or a misprint, or it might have been given in a hurry, or from the way in which he was questioned; and I used the words, "that I should not wonder at any jumble;" and that he might have mistaken the matter, for that I could not have received that instruction from him, as I had never heard of the appointment of Wells, or

Wells's

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Wells's name, till the letter came before me. Mr. Stafford wrote back, with his usual generosity, to say, "It is as is quoted, I did say so; but I wish to take the entire responsibility upon myself."

3477. Have you read the evidence?—No, only that given in the newspapers; I have not communicated with the Admiralty.

3478. The question was this, Question 1868, "Was not, in point of fact, the "letter which has been read by the Chairman, addressed to the superintendent at "Portsmouth, and addressed to the Surveyor of the Navy, a virtual appointment "of Wells? By no means; but by those letters he was appointed on probation. "A man has no right to know of the existence of those letters; and the only "document which was wanting was the warrant, which was not signed; and the "letter; he had not had letter or warrant.—Is it not usual when an appointment "of this kind is made out so far as it goes in those two letters, and a warrant is "made out in conformity with those letters, and sent up to the Secretary of the "Admiralty, either the first Secretary or the second Secretary, in case the first is "absent, that the second Secretary should sign that for the first Secretary? Yes. "—Why was it not done in this case? Because it was stopped by Captain Hamil-"ton." Afterwards it goes on: "Why did he not sign it in the present instance? "Because I had asked him to keep back the appointment;" that was the evidence?—Yes; I wrote to Mr. Stafford upon that point.

3479. It has been stated to the Committee that those documents and various papers in relation to the appointment of Wells were in your possession at one time, and that they were handed over to Mr. Piers?—I am not aware of their being in my possession a moment beyond their being brought to me by Mr. Piers, and my desiring him to keep them.

3480. They passed through your hands?—Yes. I have seen Mr. Piers's evidence upon that point somewhere, and his memory I should say was perfect. I think it is more exact even than I could be sure mine would be; but I should be prepared to say of all I saw there, that it was very correctly stated. I have not communicated with him on the subject of his evidence.

3481. All the papers that you received were handed to Mr. Piers?—Yes, they were handed to Mr. Piers.

3482. You recollect, of course, the circular of the 19th of April, the circular which cancelled the previous circular of 1849?—I had never heard of it till the other day; till this whole matter came forward.

3483. Not of the circular of the 19th of April?—I was perfectly unacquainted with it; I was not at the Admiralty; I was going to say that I had left the Admiralty the day before; but I left the Admiralty on the 20th. I keep a very exact journal of every day's proceedings, and I think it was on the 20th I was not at the Admiralty. I never heard of that circular till the other day, when it was brought forward in the House of Commons.

[The Witness withdrew.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of the House; further Examined.

A. Stafford, Esq M. P.

3484. *Chairman.*] THERE seems to have been some little error in the evidence connected with the withholding of appointments till your return; perhaps you will state exactly the facts?—I think the error is only that of a letter; it is "appointment" instead of "appointments."

3485. Had you asked him to keep back "appointments" instead of "appointment"?—Yes.

3486. You are asked, "Why did not he (Captain Hamilton) sign it in the present instance," and your reply was, "Because I had asked him to keep back the appointment"?—My impression is, that I had, through Mr. Grant, requested Captain Hamilton to postpone any appointments of importance during my absence; that was the impression under which I stated that; I did not put it so diffusely as this; my anxious desire was, before this Committee, not to seem to avoid any responsibility that justly belonged to me. Captain Hamilton, in undertaking this friendly office for me, of course might have seemed to take the responsibility upon himself; but my great wish was to impress upon the Committee, that the whole of the responsibility rested entirely upon myself. As it was an act of friendship on his part, I was anxious, rather than seem to elude responsibility, to go to the other extreme.

[The Witness withdrew.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, called in; and further Examined.

Sir *B. Walker.*

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3487. *Chairman.*] WITH regard to the question which was put to the Duke of Northumberland, as to the effect of the circular of 1849, did you, under the circular of 1849, when two names came up to you from a superintendent, erase one name, or invariably select one in any other way for the appointment?—I never erased a name. I merely made a submission, giving my opinion as to which was the most deserving person.

3488. You made your observations upon the one most deserving, and forwarded them to the Admiralty?—Yes.

3489. Was it not the general practice, before 1849, that the submissions from the superintendents were sent to the Admiralty first, and then generally sent to you for your observations?—Yes.

3490. But in some cases this was omitted?—Yes.

3491. And you therefore suggested to the First Lord of the Admiralty, or to the Board of Admiralty, that it would be more convenient if they passed through your hands, so that your observations might always be annexed?—Quite so. I might state also, that I proposed the present establishment, which effected a great reduction of the Estimates of the dockyards; and they were also turned over to me, which was never the case before. On that occasion, Sir Francis Baring gave me the whole control of the yards; and I was answerable that the Estimates, or the numbers approved by an Order in Council, were not exceeded. My wish was, to go down below that number, and, as vacancies occurred, not to discharge the men, but not to fill up the vacancies, by which arrangements we got to about 300 below the established number by the Order in Council.

3492. You took upon yourself a greater responsibility under the Board of Admiralty, with regard to the Estimates of the dockyards?—Yes; I never had any patronage of any sort; I never appointed a man to a yard, and I do not know that I ever named a man or an officer.

3493. Were the two Votes in the Public Estimates, Nos. 6 and 8, specially under you?—Yes; and in fact, there were several; there was Machinery and the Foreign Yards; some six or seven Votes come under me.

3494. With regard to the reports from the superintendents of foreign yards, were they in the same way sent to you first, before they were sent to the Admiralty?—Yes; I think that was the general practice; generally the foreign yards go almost direct to the Surveyor.

3495. Since the circular repealing the circular of 1849, have the reports from the superintendents of foreign yards come equally through your office?—No, certainly not; there was an appointment took place at Malta that I was not aware of; and I mention this, because it was stated by Mr. Stafford that he had never interfered with my department, the steam. Now, I find that a man has been sent out to Malta, and I have a letter here, dated the 6th of October 1852, stating that the fitter of that yard had left the island, the engine-fitter, and requesting that a competent person should be selected, and sent out to the yard.

3496. Sir *B. Hall.*] To whom is that letter addressed?—That is a letter to the Admiral Superintendent, addressed to him from the chief engineer at Malta factory, to be forwarded to the Admiralty.

3497. *Chairman.*] What date was that?—It is the 6th of October 1852. The Admiral Superintendent's submission is on the 22d of October 1852.

3498. That submission was never forwarded to you for your opinion?—Never; but here is a letter, dated the 18th of April 1853, which came to me a short time ago. This is from the chief engineer of Malta, from the Malta factory, to the superintendent. "Malta Dockyard, 18th April 1853. Sir,—I feel it to be incumbent upon me to report to you that William Cooper, lately sent from England to this factory, as fitter, at 8*s.* 6*d.* a day, is not a qualified man for the appointment, not having had experience in a marine steam factory, and consequently inexperienced in the repairs required to the machinery of steam vessels; and he is also unable to work at the lathes, planing machines, &c. The staff of English mechanics in this factory is kept as low as possible, in order to encourage and to bring forward the natives, which makes it desirable that the men who may be sent from England should be selected from Woolwich factory, where the mechanical skill of the workmen is well known, and not strangers, from private masters, as in the present case, whose capabilities may not be known. This man

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is inferior as a workman to some of the natives, who receive only 3*s.* a day. Under these circumstances, I would suggest that William Cooper may be recalled to England, and that a good and experienced fitter, one who can work at the lathes, &c., and, if convenient, a married man, be sent in his stead. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, *T. Hamshaw*, Superintending Engineer."

3499. This William Cooper was appointed in the autum of 1852?—Yes, this man was ordered to be appointed; here is a minute for his appointment, in which there is a contradiction; the minute is dated the 23d of November, "Appoint Robert Davis to be fitter to fill this vacancy and order him a passage to Malta by the first opportunity. *Augustus Stafford.*" I ought perhaps to have finished this letter; the Admiral Superintendent, on the engineer's letter, puts this minute, which is forwarded home, "Submitted for the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, concurring, as I do, in the recommendation of the superintendent engineer, that this artificer be ordered a passage home, and a competent fitter, of sober habits, and a married man, be sent to Malta." Then he incloses the Admiralty order for Cooper, and this is the order that was sent to him: "Admiralty, 24th November 1852. To the Admiral Superintendent of Malta Dockyard. W. Cooper has been appointed fitter in Malta Dockyard, in the room of Samuel Taylor (2) who has quitted the island without leave, and Davis will be ordered a passage to Malta by the first opportunity. By command of their Lordships. (signed) *Augustus Stafford.*"

3500. Lord *Hotham.*] Who is Davis?—The minute is made for Davis, but it appears that Cooper was selected. Cooper is mentioned in one part of the letter, and then Davis is mentioned. It appears as if the minute had been made for Davis, and Cooper was afterwards selected. The superintendent sent this letter home. Then here is a letter to the Comptroller of the Victualling, dated the 24th December 1852: "You are to provide a passage to Malta for William Cooper, appointed fitter in the dockyard, by the first opportunity. (signed) *J. H. Hay.*" Then it appears that this man was selected from Dover. This is the letter sent to Accountant of the Victualling, Dover: "27 December 1852. Honoured Sir,—I am ordered by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to say I am appointed a fitter at the dockyard at Malta, and that I am to proceed forthwith, and that I am to apply to you for further directions. I remain, honoured Sir, your most obedient servant, *William Cooper.*" That is Cooper's letter to the Comptroller of the Victualling.

3501. *Chairman.*] Does not he take his warrant with him on such an occasion?—I presume he had a letter. Now this is a case strictly in my department, as the steam department. I knew nothing of there being a vacancy at Malta, or of the appointment of this man, till this letter was received the other day to say that he was not competent. It has always been usual, when men are required for the foreign yards, to select a competent person, well known in a dockyard or in the steam factories, so that we may send a person fully competent; but in this case it appears that that course has never been followed, and a man has been sent out who could not do the work a native could, only receiving 3*s.* a day; whereas this man's pay is 8*s.* 6*d.*, and the Government are put to the expense of his passage out and home.

3502. In common practice, should you have made a trial of the man before you sent him out?—No; on receiving the letter, a letter from the superintendent, that would have been forwarded either to Woolwich or to Portsmouth for the officer to select a man fully competent.

3503. Why should not you have gone to the private trade for a man for Malta?—Because it is private trade; the factories are on the same footing as the private trade at Woolwich or Portsmouth, exactly on the same system. I merely mention this, because it was stated that the steam department had never been interfered with.

3504. As to Ridgeway, who is to be appointed at Chatham in lieu of him?—The captain superintendent has been ordered to select a competent person from the private trade.

3505. For the rolling mills?—Yes, the metal mills; he asked permission to be allowed on a former occasion, not having anybody competent in any of our establishments.

3506. Sir *B. Hall.*] A man of the name of Davis is mentioned in that warrant?—In one part of the letter.

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3507. Do you know who Davis is?—No, I never heard.

3508. *Chairman.*] When two names are submitted to you by the superintendent, you add a note, saying which of the two you think should be selected, and you state some reasons?—Yes, with reference to his abilities or servitude; if he is a deserving man, though perhaps he does not come up to a younger man, his services are taken into consideration.

3509. Supposing when that document gets to the Admiralty, the Admiralty do not consider your reasons quite sufficient, they then select which of the two they please?—Yes.

3510. Has that been done now and then?—Never since I have been in the department, with the exception of one instance with Mr. Stafford, which took place, I think, the beginning of April; it was a trifling thing, a case at Woolwich, the only promotion that I recollect.

3511. Are the Committee to understand that virtually, under the circular of 1849, you made a selection from the men, and your selection was practically decisive?—It was still for their Lordships' decision; I merely expressed my opinion.

3512. Then it was only their ratifying your opinion that constituted the appointment?—Quite so.

3513. You did not consider that you had the patronage?—Certainly not. I may perhaps be allowed to state that those in my department have had no weight as to the promotions, and I beg to take the whole responsibility upon my own shoulders, if anything has been done contrary to the rules of the service. I have been guided by no one in my department; I made that a rule, as I knew there was ill feeling and petty jealousies. If the Committee will call the officers forward, I think they will not find in any one instance where there has been a promotion that they have had influence; I have done it entirely by my own judgment; I have gone into every person's case and decided for myself. It was said yesterday that Mr. Edye had a brother in my department, who had an undue influence; if you call Mr. Edye before you he will state that I have not consulted him; he knows nothing of the promotions that have taken place.

3514. You stated that in your department none of the persons under you have been allowed to interfere in any way?—Not in any way whatever; but I have the whole responsibility, and I have gone into every man's case.

3515. It came out in evidence before this Committee, that with regard to Cotsell, some friend of his at Somerset House spoke to you on the subject?—Yes.

3516. Do you consider it regular that a clerk in the Admiralty should come and represent his friends to the Surveyor?—It was done in this way: the man's memorial was received, and there was a letter from the Master Superintendent at Portsmouth, and it was upon those two letters that he came to say, he hoped his case would be considered, but there was no pledge, no promise; I merely said that his case would be fully considered when a vacancy occurred, but it happened before there was any vacancy; I did not consider that that would bias me in any way.

3517. But as regards the clerk who took such a part, would it not be rather contrary to the spirit of the circular of 1847, which said, that no political and no private favour was to interfere?—Quite so; and I ask, has it interfered in any way?

3518. My question was, whether it was right that the clerk should bring forward and submit to you private reasons for the advantage of his friend?—It was hardly an advancement. If Cotsell had not been promoted out of Portsmouth, there would have been no objection to his being sent there. Mr. Collings was a person that I met at Malta some years ago; he was attached to the dockyard there.

3519. Are the Committee to understand, that when the Committee are assured by you that no persons in your department have used any private influence for the advantage of their friends, that that would apply to all the other persons in the employ of the Admiralty, and that you have not allowed any of them to interfere, or by private friendship to bias your judgment?—Never. I never allowed anybody to do that; I have acted to the best of my judgment in every submission I made.

3520. You have heard the statements of the different superintendents, testifying to the belief that in their department all their recommendations were fairly treated?—Yes, I have looked only to the good of the service; I never have gone to the right or to the left.

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3521. Mr. *Beckett.*] You heard the evidence which the Duke of Northumberland gave this morning?—Yes.

3522. You heard his Grace say, that notwithstanding the issuing of the circular of the 19th of April, which directed the submissions of the superintendents of the yards to go direct to the Admiralty, still he expected they would be submitted to you by the Admiralty?—Yes.

3523. Will you state to the Committee whether, since the 19th of April, those submissions so coming first up to the Admiralty have been submitted to you and your judgment exercised upon them?—They were not; the documents were never sent to me, with the exception of the one case which I mentioned about the promotions that took place at Woolwich. I think that was after the cancelling of the circular, those papers were sent to me with the names of the men selected, without being dated or signed, and I made the remark which I laid before the Committee; at this moment I do not remember any other document having been sent.

3524. *Chairman.*] A case was mentioned to the Committee, namely, a case of a master shipwright on the retirement of Mr. Fincham?—Yes, that was a submission on my part. I was sent for by the Duke of Northumberland and Admiral Hyde Parker, to go fully into the case of the officers who were most deserving on account of their merits and claims, and by their directions I made a submission; that was not any case referred to me particularly.

3525. It was by the direction of the First Lord?—Yes, entirely. The First Lord of the Admiralty and Admiral Hyde Parker. If the Committee refer to the papers, they will find that the papers are both approved by the First Lord of the Admiralty and Admiral Hyde Parker.

[The Witness withdrew.

Martis, 10° *die Maii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Lord Hotham.
Sir B. Hall.	Mr. Beckett.
Sir Henry F. Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Admiral *George Frederick Rich*; called in, and Examined.

Admiral *G. F. Rich.*

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3526. *Chairman.*] YOU have been Superintendent of the Victualling-yard at Plymouth?—Yes.

3527. For what length of time have you held that appointment?—From February 1850 until the early part of last April.

3528. Had you previously been employed in superintending any other yard or dockyard?—Never.

3529. By whom were you appointed?—By Sir Francis Baring.

3530. When you were appointed by Sir Francis Baring, did he give you any directions to abstain from all political interference?—None whatever.

3531. How many men have you under you in the victualling-yard?—The establishment consists of about 160.

3532. Are many of them voters, do you know?—I really cannot say; I know that there are a great many; how many, I do not know; I have always abstained from any interference or acquaintance with the officers and the men as regarded their private privileges.

3533. You know that there are a good many voters?—I know that there are a good many.

3534. In what way are promotions made in the victualling-yard?—When vacancies occur in any particular department, the officers in whose departments the vacancies occur usually submit to the superintendent the most efficient and worthy persons.

3535. What officers?—The master attendant and storekeeper.

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3536. Who is the master attendant?—Mr. Armstrong, a master in the navy.

3537. Who is the storekeeper?—Mr. Triscott; the storekeeper, when I first took the charge of the yard, was Mr. Pike; he died in the course of the first 12 months of my service, and was succeeded by Mr. Triscott, who is at present storekeeper.

3538. The master attendant and storekeeper recommend men for promotion?—Yes, they recommend two or three men, as the case may be, for promotion, two of which are, according to the instructions, submitted to the Admiralty for selection, and it has usually happened that I have made remarks upon the fitness of the persons so recommended.

3539. Did you give Mr. Triscott any caution, last summer, respecting political interference?—Yes, I did.

3540. When was that?—Before the election took place, rumours were prevalent that Mr. Triscott was taking an active part in those proceedings during the canvass, and I then called him before me, and, in the presence of my chief clerk, in my office, I informed him that I had heard that he was actively engaged in the interest of certain parties, candidates for the borough, and I called to his recollection that this was forbidden by the instructions, which I should enforce; and I desired him to abstain from taking any part in it whatever, and if I found that he did so, I should certainly feel it my duty to report it to the Admiralty; he assured me that he had taken no part in it at all; but the rumours were so strong, that I said, "As a gentleman you tell me so, therefore, as a gentleman, I am bound to believe you, but the rumours are so strong, that if what you tell me is true, I think you are the most belied man in England." He continued to assure me that he had taken no part in it.

3541. Did any facts afterwards come to your knowledge corroborating his statement, or strengthening your suspicions on the subject?—No facts reached me that I could by any means make use of, or that I could take public notice of; I continued to hear these rumours which prevailed, but in such a way as left me no means of acting upon them; I could fasten no charge upon him to that effect, but still the rumours prevailed.

3542. Was Mr. Armstrong suspected of taking any part in politics?—No; very far from that indeed.

3543. Are the Committee to understand that you consider that he took no part in politics?—Mr. Armstrong certainly took no part; I am quite convinced he took no part in politics.

3544. Lord *Hotham.*] You heard no rumour about him?—Never, or of any other person under my control.

3545. *Chairman.*] Did you yourself ever take any active part in politics before you came to the victualling-yard?—No, I never did; I may remark that during the canvass, parties did come to me proposing to give me their votes, and to vote as I directed, but I invariably declined to receive them, and told them that I would not take any part in it at all; and they even went so far as to ask my advice which way they should vote, but I declined also to give it, and I never knew how they did vote.

3546. When promotions were to be made you consulted the master attendant and storekeeper, did you not?—I generally consulted them both; indeed always.

3547. Did they give you written recommendations with respect to the different persons who had claims to be promoted?—No, I do not recollect any case in which they submitted it formally in writing; probably the names were put upon a piece of paper, that it might not escape me; but the master attendant has the superintendence of the administration of the duties of the dockyard, and the storekeeper has a particular department of his own, and when it occurred that any person in his department was submitted for promotion he was always consulted.

3548. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] When you had this conversation with Mr. Triscott had he come to you on other business, or had you sent to him to speak to him specially upon this subject?—My impression is that I sent for him on this occasion; but I conveyed this caution several times during the casual interviews I had with him on other duties, but my impression as to what I have stated arose from my having sent for him specially for that purpose, in the presence of my chief clerk.

3549. Mr. *Beckett.*] The Committee have heard of political clubs existing in several

several of the dockyard boroughs; do they exist in Plymouth?—I really do not know; I never heard of one.

3550. You do not know whether the dockyard voters are very much pressed politically by the one side or the other?—Only by general rumour; I do not know it from my own knowledge; there is a general rumour, I believe, that there is a great pressure: but whether it exists or not, I am not prepared to say.

3551. Lord *Hotham.*] What is your opinion of the propriety or otherwise of the dockyard men being precluded from voting, or interfering at elections?—I have a very decided and strong opinion upon that subject, that it is very desirable that they should not have the power of voting so long as they serve in the dockyard.

3552. You have no doubt that the good of the service would be promoted by their being so deprived of their votes?—I have not the smallest doubt of it; I have reason to believe that a good many of the people under my charge in the victualling-yard were swayed in their political principles by a belief that they would benefit themselves in voting contrary to what they had done formerly.

3553. Were the submissions which you made for promotions to the Admiralty generally adopted by the Admiralty?—Generally, I believe; I think I recollect one particular instance in which that did not happen; the case of a man whose case was submitted to the Admiralty.

3554. *Chairman.*] When was that?—I do not know the date, but I am quite clear that it was before the election, probably six weeks or two months.

3555. In the course of the year 1852?—Yes, it was in the early part of the year 1852.

3556. And about six or seven weeks before the election?—I should say six weeks or two months before the election.

3557. It was in April or May 1852?—Yes.

3558. Having stated, as near as you can recollect, the date, will you state the circumstances of that case?—A vacancy occurred for a leading man of stores, and a person named George Elms had been brought to my notice on one or two occasions as a very deserving and good man, and he was recommended by me for this situation, in conjunction with another man of the name of Parkin, who was a messenger. Elms's standing, I believe, was much longer than that of the other; Elms was passed by, and did not get it upon the representation I made, but the other man obtained it. On a subsequent occasion Elms did obtain an appointment, when the next vacancy occurred; I had recommended him for this, and he obtained it; but upon the election taking place, and this case makes me recollect that it was before the election; I did not know at all the political views or opinions of either of these men, but when the election terminated it was mentioned to me that Elms had not succeeded in the first instance, but he did get it upon the second occasion; and the reason assigned to me was, that he had been of strong Whig principles, Liberal principles, formerly; but that upon this occasion of his succeeding to the appointment that he obtained, it was discovered at the poll that he had changed his opinions, and given a plumper for Sir George Berkeley, and therefore it was inferred that that was the cause of his success.

3559. When you say that this was brought to your notice, how was it brought to your notice?—I think it was stated by the chief clerk, Mr. Jamieson.

3560. Your chief clerk?—Yes.

3561. When you submit men for promotion, in what way do you send your submissions to the Admiralty; do they go straight to the Secretary?—Yes, straight to the Admiralty, and directed, as all letters are directed, to the Secretary.

3562. Has that always been the practice for the victualling-yards?—Always, without any reference to the Surveyor, who has no control whatever in the victualling-yards. The case I have mentioned is one in which it was only rumoured that that was the cause of it.

3563. In that case you sent up two names, namely, George Elms and John Parkin?—Yes.

3564. It was customary for the Admiralty to select one of those two, was it not?—Certainly; selecting the first name, that being a man of the oldest standing.

3565. In sending up that submission, did you add anything strongly in favour of Elms?—I believe I did; I stated that their characters were both good, that they were both exemplary men in conduct and character, but Elms was of the longest standing; I had a strong feeling in favour of both, and have so still.

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3566. Both have subsequently been promoted?—Yes.

3567. But Parkin was successful in the first instance?—Yes.

[*A printed Paper was handed to the Witness.*]

3568. *Chairman.*] How is that return headed?—It is headed, "A Return of all Officers, Men, Apprentices and Boys ordered to be entered, promoted and advanced at this Yard between the 1st of March and the 31st of December 1852; specifying by what authority, with their several stations and ages, the dates of their respective entries, and showing, in cases of non-entry, whether owing to rejections or non-appearance."

3569. How many promotions were there in those months, without reference to the entries?—They amounted to 16; I have a pretty distinct recollection of all the cases.

3570. Did you, in the other cases, send up two names?—For promotions, invariably two names; it is the Admiralty instruction so to do.

3571. Was there any other occasion in which the second name of the two sent up was preferred before the first name?—I think not.

3572. The only case was in the case of Parkin being preferred to Elms?—Yes.

3573. In that case, your chief clerk afterwards informed you that, according to his belief, some political influence had been used to favour Parkin over Elms?—Not so; Parkin's success was not noticed at all; he merely was appointed, and no heed taken of it; subsequently, a vacancy occurred, and the man who had failed before, George Elms, then succeeded, and that was received as a matter of course; but after the election, after the state of the poll was disclosed, in a matter of common conversation, it was said to me, "We see now how it is that Parkin got the appointment at first, and that Elms did not succeed; Elms has now got it; but the secret is, that he has ratted, and plumped for Sir George Berkeley." That was a matter of conversation.

3574. Lord *Hotham.*] Was Parkin a voter?—Yes.

3575. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you know how Parkin voted?—No; indeed I do not know.

3576. There is the case of a third name on the list, Algernon Wotton; he was aged 54; he was promoted from second-class leading man of storehouses to superintendent of watering-place at Bovisand; and reference was made from the Admiralty as to his fitness; was that man recommended by you?—No; I recollect the circumstances very clearly. The place had been held for 24 or 25 years by an old warrant officer in the navy, a very deserving and good man, of the name of Ferguson, a boatswain. That has been held to be an appointment that was to be filled by persons of that class called "deserving warrant officers;" there is not much duty to perform in peace, but in case of war it is a place built at great expense for the purposes of watering a fleet in the Sound, and it is necessary that somebody should overlook it, the reservoirs, and the pipes and things conducting the water. Upon the death of this Mr. Ferguson, I merely reported the death to the Admiralty; but feeling that it belonged to their Lordships to fill it up as they thought fit from such a class of officers as were most deserving, warrant officers or anybody else, of whom I have none under my control, I recommended none, but merely reported the fact of his death; and shortly afterwards I received a communication from the Admiralty, calling upon me to state if I considered Mr. Wotton capable of undertaking the charge of performing the duties of that place. He had made previously many applications to the Admiralty for promotion, in consequence of some claims he felt that he had to consideration, from having been dispossessed of some appointment he had held some years before; he had a letter from the Admiralty acknowledging those claims, and holding out some hope that when an opportunity occurred he should receive some compensation by advancement; he had made several applications and had failed; he came to me on this occasion, and I declined to forward his application, which I had done once, I think, without success; but I told him he was at liberty to make use of any interest he possessed to obtain the appointment if he could; but I did not think it one calculated for him. He had been, I think, a miller; he was a second-class leading man of storehouses, a very respectable person, and a well-conducted man. In this state of things I received a letter from the Admiralty, calling upon me to state if I thought him capable of the duties. I sent for him on this occasion, and informed him that I had a question in my own mind as to the propriety of such an appointment, for which I did not think his former habits of life

life fitted him so well as a boatswain or a warrant officer, inasmuch, as if an occasion arose for making use of that as a watering-place, it was desirable to have a person accustomed to seafaring habits, for the purpose of conducting the business of receiving vessels along the piers; but as no duty of that kind had occurred for many years, and there was no probability of it, I could see no reason to forbid me to say that he was capable, for there is but little to do but to see that the thing is not damaged. I had no idea what way his political bias turned, any more than of any other person; and as he was well conducted, I therefore replied that I thought he was not unfit. I believe I stated it in these terms, that he was not unfit. He is still there, and has behaved himself very well; but since his appointment and since the election,—at this time I was not aware of his political principles, but I have since been told that his influence was made use of as a political partisan, and through these means he obtained it; whether there was any truth in it or not, I cannot say; I know nothing about it. That is the history of his appointment.

3577. You did not send up his name in the first instance?—No, I never sent up the name at all.

3578. If he had made any application through a third party, would not that have been in contravention of the regulations of 1847?—If he had made an application through any party connected with the victualling-yard, I apprehend that it would be. I told him frankly that he was at liberty to make his own applications, as he thought most conducive to his interests.

3579. When was that?—When the occasion took place, when the vacancy arose.

3580. There is the name of William Hawkins, aged 26, promoted from being third-class labourer to police constable; and it appears in the column headed "Remarks," that he was appointed direct from the Admiralty; did you make any communication to the Admiralty in reference to the promotion of Hawkins?—None whatever; I merely received him as he was appointed; I felt that I could not object; he appeared fit for his place.

3581. It appears that that was a promotion?—He had been a third-class labourer.

3582. In the third column he appears to have been so?—I beg pardon; I believe I ought not to have said so; his name escaped me; I cannot recollect the whole of the case, but I think it went in its regular form; he was a well-conducted and good man.

3583. What is the meaning of the last column, "Appointed direct from the Admiralty?—I cannot explain that. I recollect the case, because I recollect taking upon myself some responsibility to ensure his appointment, inasmuch as when men are appointed it is necessary that they should be surveyed by the medical officer at the hospital as to their fitness to do their duty; and this man was discovered to have a slight rupture, and the medical officer therefore reported him unfit. I found, upon consultation with the master attendant, whose particular business it is to superintend the police there, that he had a strong interest in favour of this man from his good conduct, and was anxious that he should not lose the appointment, and in concert with him it did occur to me that the examination of the medical officer proving that he was ruptured ought not to be fatal to his appointment and his advancement; for as he was already belonging to the yard as a labourer, his rupture was not of that description to prevent him doing the hard work of a labourer, and consequently he would be able to perform the duty of a police constable.

3584. You consider that the remark in the sixth column, that William Hawkins had been "appointed direct from the Admiralty," is incorrect?—I do not recollect. I am inclined to think that the recommendation went, in its regular course, through me. I have no books, but I recollect the man, and I recollect the case. It is marked here that it was direct from the Admiralty.

3585. So far as you recollect it, that remark is incorrect?—I should say that it is not correct, and that the promotion took place in the regular way.

3586. The following names are George Byrne, three persons of the name of Searle, John Davis, Thomas Adams, Richard Hoskins and Nicholas Opie. They are promoted from first entry to third-class labourers, in the months of April, June, August and December 1852, by the authority of the Admiralty; and in the last column containing "Remarks," it is stated that they were "transferred from extra list to establishment, per Admiralty Order, dated the 10th of De-

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cember 1851." Was that a promotion coming direct from the Admiralty, or was it in consequence of any representation made by you?—I think I can explain the case. We had about this time a certain number of men in the establishment who were extra men, and the Admiralty ordered that the establishment should be confined to a certain number, I think 160, and we were authorised to take some of the extra men from the extra list and transfer them to the permanent establishment of the yard, those who stood first; of the other fifteen, nine were discharged, I think, entirely, and those six were put upon the permanent establishment of the yard, by order of the Admiralty, in consequence of my representation to that effect; the other nine have since been taken in, at my representation, as vacancies occurred; so that those who had been working as extra men in the yard are almost all provided for on the permanent establishment, on my representation.

3587. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] In point of fact, the whole of those 16 names met with your approbation?—Every one; they had formed the band, but they were also employed as labourers, and when the people assembled for their monthly practices those people formed the band; but they were in fact entered there as extra labourers, and they did work as extra labourers; but on the change of the establishment, to fill up the number, 160, nine were taken from the extra list and put upon the permanent list; the others were discharged, but they have since been taken on, one by one, as vacancies occur.

[The Witness withdrew.

Mr. *Thomas Lloyd*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *T. Lloyd.*

3588. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation do you hold at the Admiralty?—I am the Chief Engineer and Inspector of Machinery of the Navy.

3589. As chief engineer, is it part of your duty to examine into the qualification of persons who are appointed to the smitheries?—I have never done so but on one occasion.

3590. On what occasion?—On the appointment of the present master smith, Mr. Wells, to Portsmouth.

3591. When were you requested to examine into his qualifications?—When he came to Somerset-house to wait upon the Surveyor of the Navy, before he had been recommended to Portsmouth.

3592. Was that in September last?—I am not sure that it was in September.

3593. Was it in the summer or autumn of last year?—In the autumn, before he went to Portsmouth.

3594. Did you see him at Somerset-house?—Yes.

3595. What sort of examination did you make to ascertain his qualifications; did you ask him questions?—I ascertained from him where he had been employed, that he had been accustomed to heavy work, such as is required on board ships; and I ascertained from his testimonials that he had given satisfaction where he had been employed; and from Mr. Black, who came with him, and who is master smith of Woolwich, I ascertained that the qualifications of Mr. Wells were, in his opinion, excellent for the situation.

3596. In what situation did Mr. Wells state to you that he had worked; in what great factory?—He had worked at large iron-works at Liverpool, the Mersey Iron-works, if I mistake not; and he had worked, I think, at a ship smithery, the name of which I forget; Mr. Patten's, I think, but I am not sure.

3597. You ascertained whether or not he was qualified to superintend the iron-work connected with shipping?—Yes; I ascertained, as well as I could, that he was an eligible person to be placed on trial at Portsmouth.

3598. Did you ask him whether or not he had been accustomed to making anchors?—I do not recollect that I did put that question to him.

3599. You were satisfied from the answers he gave, that he was sufficiently acquainted to be a desirable person for the smithery at Portsmouth?—Yes, on probation.

3600. You did not take down in writing your examination at all?—No, I did not.

3601. He has been sent down again to Portsmouth latterly, has he not?—Yes.

3602. Did you see him before he was again sent down?—I saw him on one occasion after the examination, which was after he had been superseded from Portsmouth Yard.

3603. Did

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3603. Did you make any inquiries respecting his capabilities for the situation during the time he was acting at Portsmouth?—No, I did not.

3604. You have not ascertained from the persons at Portsmouth anything respecting his qualifications?—I have not; I have made no inquiries; and I do not know.

3605. Are the Committee to understand that this is the only case in which you have ever been called upon to examine a person appointed from the private trade to a dockyard?—The only occasion; there may have been others, but I do not recollect them at this moment. The engineers who are appointed to the navy are examined by me always; I mean the chief engineers.

3606. Do you examine at all the state of the smitheries?—The smitheries are not in my department at all; but I may observe, perhaps, that a few years ago I was appointed on a committee, having for its object the examination of the state of the smitheries; or rather, that was one of the objects of the committee.

3607. In what year was that?—In 1845 and 1846.

3608. Was it in consequence of that report that it was recommended that persons should be taken from the private trade?—There was no recommendation in the report to that effect.

3609. Did that report point out that it was desirable that some improvement should take place in the smitheries?—Yes, that the smitheries were at that time, in the opinion of the committee, not in a very satisfactory condition, as compared with good establishments in the private trade.

3610. You reported that there was an inferiority in the public establishments as compared with similar establishments in the private trade?—With the best of the establishments in private hands; perhaps on an average the public smitheries were at least as good as the others, but certainly inferior to the best of the private smitheries.

3611. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] When was that Committee appointed?—In 1845, I think; in 1845 and 1846 we made two reports, if I mistake not.

[The Witness withdrew.

Captain the Honourable *Richard Saunders Dundas*, R. N., called in; and Examined.

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3612. YOU are now one of the Lords of the Admiralty, are you not?—Yes.

3613. When were you appointed?—When the present Government came in, in January.

3614. Had you been previously superintendent of the yard at Deptford?—Yes, I had.

3615. There is a building-yard and a victualling-yard there, I believe?—Yes, a dockyard and a victualling-yard.

3616. Did you superintend both?—Yes.

3617. The dockyard there is smaller than most of the other yards, is it not?—Yes, and less active; there is merely building, except the shipment of stores to foreign stations.

3618. How long were you superintendent of that yard?—Two years nearly; not quite.

3619. During the time you were superintendent of the yard, were there any vacancies causing promotions, and giving opportunities for promotion in the dockyard at Deptford?—Yes, some, not a great many.

3620. Did you submit the names in the usual manner?—Yes.

3621. You sent them to the Surveyor of the Navy?—The practice when I was first appointed was to send them to the Surveyor from the dockyard, but latterly there was an order to send them direct; the letters are addressed to the Secretary, with "Surveyor" in the corner.

3622. The form used to be, to send them to the Surveyor in the first instance?—Yes; but I conceive it to be much the same thing; the form was to send them addressed to the Secretary, for the Surveyor.

3623. While you sent them in that manner so that they went first to the Surveyor, were the persons you recommended promoted according to your recommendations?—I think, so far as I can recollect, nearly all the dockyard ones.

3624. Had you any cause to think that your recommendations were not fairly considered

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considered in the Surveyor's department?—No, I had no reason whatever, on the contrary, I found everything came very regularly from it; I always felt that what came from the Surveyor's office was very satisfactory.

3625. After the system was altered by the circular of the 19th of April 1852, then you sent, as I understand you, direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes.

3626. Now, after that change had been made were your recommendations equally fairly attended to?—I do not recollect anything in the dockyard particularly that occurred, but there were one or two circumstances in the victualling-yard that did surprise me.

3627. Will you state what those circumstances were in the victualling-yard?—There was one circumstance connected with the appointment of a foreman of the coopers.

3628. When was that?—I do not remember the date; some time, I think, in the course of last summer, but I do not recollect.

3629. Will you look at this printed paper—(*a paper being handed to the Witness*)?—It was when the appointment of Lewis and Longhurst took place.

3630. Will you state the case of Lewis?—The master cooper had been discharged from the yard, and the first foreman of the coopers was taken unwell, and he was so unwell that he was obliged to be superannuated, and a vacancy occurred for a foreman, and the second foreman, Lewis, was appointed first foreman, which was all regular; it was the recommendation of the officers; Longhurst was appointed contrary to the recommendations of the officers. I had sent up, in the usual way, three names, one a man of the name of Harlowe; the second was Lewis, a brother of the other; and the third, I do not recollect his name; but I sent the names up with the usual recommendations; in fact, I was anxious that there should be a good appointment, and I called the attention of the officers particularly to the matter, and desired them to select the best men they could, because the master cooper had been a very deserving man, and had gone; and although Lewis, the foreman, was a good man, I did not think he had the experience that the other had; and it was necessary to fill it up well, and I recommended a man, I think his name was Harlowe, as the best; I thought so, and the officers thought so; the second man was a brother of Lewis, and I forget the name of the third man. I drew my pen through Lewis's name, because, being a brother of the other man, I thought it objectionable; but as he was a man who was entitled to it, I thought his name should appear, and it went up in that way. I received a letter from the Admiralty, calling upon me to report the character and qualification of Longhurst, and I desired the officers to make their report, which they did, to the effect that they did not think that he had arithmetic enough for a foreman, and that they were sorry they could not recommend him. He had been discharged a year or two before that for being drunk, and had been allowed to come back again. I put my own submission on that, stating that I did not think the previous recommendation could be improved, and that I did not recommend Longhurst; and I afterwards received orders that he was appointed.

3631. This being an appointment in the victualling-yard, and promotion in the victualling-yard, it would not have gone through the Surveyor of the Navy in any case?—No.

3632. It went direct to the Admiralty?—Yes.

3633. Did you, in each case, send up the two names?—I sent up all three, drawing my pen in red ink through Lewis's name; I wished that Lewis's name should appear, as he was a good man, but I did not wish him to have the appointment, because he was a brother to the other foreman.

3634. Longhurst, contrary to the recommendation of the officers, and contrary to your own submission, obtained the appointment?—Yes.

3635. That was the 2d of November, apparently?—I suppose so; about that time.

3636. Did you make any reports about the capabilities of the men for their situation after their appointments?—In the dockyard there are monthly reports about some.

3637. Are there not in the victualling-yard any reports?—No; the regulations do not apply so much to the victualling-yard as to the dockyard; the practice in recommendations obtained, to a certain extent, in the victualling-yard, but it was not so stringent; the Admiralty instructions are in some respects different in the two establishments.

3638. If a man not supposed to be qualified is promoted, what means have the Admiralty

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Admiralty afterwards of knowing that he is not properly qualified?—If I found a man was very unfit, I should certainly report him.

3639. Longhurst having been promoted contrary to your recommendations, did you find him in any way unfit?—I was not there long enough to judge; he was going on pretty well; he was not a bad character, but I did not think he was a man to be promoted in preference to the other.

3640. You did not think it good for the general interests of the yard that he should have been promoted?—No; I thought Harlowe the preferable man; he was almost the only man amongst them who was professionally a vat-maker.

3641. Do you know whether or not Longhurst had any vote?—I never inquired about their votes; I know nothing about them.

3642. Was there any other case?—There was a man of the name of Elder, who was appointed against my recommendation.

3643. What was he?—He was in the bakery; he was one of the bakers; he was a candidate for being leading man of stores; I did not think him at all a man to be selected for it; I had no decided complaint of him, but he was rather eccentric, and not a man who would have authority among the others, and I did not wish him to be appointed.

3644. He was promoted contrary to your recommendations?—Yes; I said nothing but that I did not recommend him; that was the only observation upon him.

3645. To what post was he promoted?—He was made leading man of stores.

3646. There is the case of a man of the name of Amey, a miller; do you remember that case?—Yes; to the best of my recollection, I took upon myself, upon one occasion, when there was a great deal of work going on, and a vacancy had been open in the mill for some time,—to fill it up. We were ordered to increase the work of the ovens more than usual; and a man was short in the mill, and a man offered himself for the work, and was well spoken of by the master miller; and as we were pressed for the work, and the vacancy had been for some time open, I engaged him, which was not regular, but I thought I was justified in doing it. I afterwards reported that I had done so; I naturally expected that the vacancy, when reported, would be filled up; but before I had reported that I had done so they appointed a man, who was sent down; I think I never saw him, but he was sent to the surgeon in the usual way, and was reported as unfit; to the best of my recollection, he was reported unfit from a disease of the spermatic cord; they sent down Amey; I do not quite recollect whether he was the man who was rejected by the surgeon, but that did take place; I took upon myself to enter the other man, and the Board ordered the other man to be borne as a supernumerary, and Amey entered on the establishment instead, and I thought that quite right so far. I think it was this man who was reported unfit from disease of the spermatic cord when he appeared. I was told that he was ordered to be surveyed by the medical inspector in London, and he was considered fit to do the work of miller, and I was to receive him after such report.

3647. What is your opinion of the circular of 1849; do you consider the circular of Sir Francis Baring of September 1849 an improvement or not on the previous practice?—I think decidedly an improvement; I think anything that brings the recommendations from the officers and superintendents must do good; the great inconvenience certainly is, that it weakens the authority of the superintendents if the men do not look to them for advancement; that was what I felt in the case of Longhurst; I was anxious to recommend the best man; I felt that one's authority was affected by it.

Vide 3680.

3648. Did you upon that occurring send any letter to the Admiralty?—No; having made my representation, and a decision being made, I thought it my duty to submit.

3649. Sir. *B. Hall.*] Do you know whether any canvassing took place in the yard?—I am not aware that any canvassing took place; Mr. Stafford paid a visit to the yard, accompanied by Mr. Rolt, the candidate.

3650. Did Mr. Stafford go round the yard with Mr. Rolt, the candidate?—They came down one morning with Colonel Green, and Colonel Green came to my room first, and spoke to me of Mr. Stafford; indeed, I was told that they were coming into the yard before he came up. Colonel Green came up to me, and told me that he had been sent for suddenly by Mr. Stafford to come to the yard; he did not exactly know why, but they wished me to go round with them; I did

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not like to do so, as he mentioned that Mr. Rolt was with him; I felt that there was an impropriety in that, and so I told Colonel Green that I really could not do it; but I did not wish him to convey it to Mr. Stafford, and I sent down to beg that Mr. Stafford would walk up, and when he came up, he merely repeated the request that I would go round, without assigning any reason, and I simply declined, without assigning any reason. I afterwards understood that they went round the yard; and the only thing that occurred afterwards was, that the storekeeper of the dockyard reported to me the next day that he thought it right to state that Mr. Stafford had sent for him to be present at the ticket-office when the men were coming into the yard. I did not think that was of much consequence at the time; but afterwards I thought that it was not merely making a bad appearance in the yard, but I thought that Mr. Stafford sending for the officers in that way was not strictly regular, and it was for that reason that the storekeeper mentioned it to me; and he informed me that he thought he was at first to muster the men, and, as he explained it to me, he asked Mr. Stafford if that was his wish; Mr. Stafford said, No, he merely wanted to see what was going on. If he had wished him to muster the men, the storekeeper felt that it was his business to mention it to me before he did so, and so it would have been.

3651. When the storekeeper communicated that to you, did he state that Mr. Rolt and Mr. Stafford had stood together at the door when the men delivered their tickets?—After he mentioned it, I was not at first struck with the thing; I did not think that Mr. Stafford should have assumed by himself that authority; I thought that inconvenience might arise out of it; and I went afterwards to the storekeeper to beg that he would explain what had taken place, and to know what message he had received; whether the message was by authority, or whether it was merely a wish expressed by Mr. Stafford for him to come; if the latter, I could have no sort of objection; but if it was to be considered as an authoritative order to come and attend officially there, then I did not think that Mr. Stafford was entitled to give any order of the sort past me. The storekeeper told me that he was sitting in his office, counting his money for the payments of the next day, and Mr. Rolt came to his office, and told him that Mr. Stafford wished him to come to the ticket-office.

3652. Did he tell you what took place after he went with Mr. Rolt?—He said that he went, and he put on rather a formal manner, to ask if Mr. Stafford wished him to muster the yard, and Mr. Stafford said, No, he wished to see what was passing.

3653. But are the Committee to understand that this officer and Mr. Rolt and Mr. Stafford were at the door where the men pass and deliver their tickets?—Yes, at the ticket-office; I do not know myself what occurred; I understood from the officer that he was present; that he was sent for in that way, and Mr. Rolt and Mr. Stafford were present on that occasion.

3654. Did you receive any communication from any person connected with the Board of Admiralty as to the election?—I received a note marked confidential.

3655. In reference to the election?—Yes, it had reference to it.

3656. Were you requested in any way to use your influence as to the election?—That was the purport of the note; not to use my influence; but it was the wish of the Board, as I understood it, as far as could be done, and that Mr. Rolt was the candidate whom they wished to support.

3657. Did the letter which contained that request contain any matter of a private nature as regards yourself?—No.

3658. It was merely in reference to the election?—It had reference simply to that thing.

3659. By whom was it signed?—It was a note presenting the compliments of a gentleman in the office.

3660. Was it a Lord of the Admiralty?—No.

3661. Was it the Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes.

3662. The Committee are to understand that the Secretary of the Admiralty wrote a letter to you in reference to the election, in which a request was made to you that you would use some influence in the election?—It was not a direct request; it was merely conveying to me that it was the wish of the Board to give that support; I cannot remember the words; the moment I read the note I put it into the fire; that is the impression on my mind.

3663. Did you send any answer to that letter?—No.

3664. You took no notice of it?—No.

3665. Was the name of any candidate mentioned in that note?—To the best of my recollection, Mr. Rolt's was, but I will not be positive.

3666. Did you ever have any conversation with Mr. Stafford as to the election?—None whatever.

3667. Or with any member of the Board?—None whatever.

3668. *Chairman.*] You put the note into the fire?—Yes.

3669. You did not show it to any one?—No; it is just possible that I did show it to the master attendant; I think I did not; I think I put it instantly into the fire. I think afterwards, when several of these things occurred, that I did mention confidentially to the master attendant and others, to put them on their guard, that I had received it; but I did not choose to take the course which I thought was being pursued.

3670. When you were appointed to Deptford, did you receive any special directions respecting interference in politics?—Distinctly, that I was not; Sir Francis Baring required from me, as from all, the same assurance that I would not in any way interfere.

3671. Sir *B. Hall.*] Had you ever received any communication from any member of the Board or the Secretary, either as a censure or remonstrative in any way as to your conduct?—Yes, I received one letter; indeed, I received more than one; expressing at least implied dissatisfaction; one was a distinct expression of dissatisfaction at the conduct and the manner in which the general business was conducted.

3672. When was that?—It must have been in last autumn.

3673. Those letters were signed by the Secretary?—The letter is signed by the Secretary.

3674. Have you those letters?—No; there are copies of them in the office at Deptford. This letter had reference to a cask of raisins, received and packed before I became superintendent.

3675. Mr. *Beckett.*] Did you ever receive any letter as to any political influence being used in the yard?—Nothing of that sort.

3676. Lord *Hotham.*] What is your opinion as to the propriety, or otherwise, of all persons employed in the dockyards being precluded from voting or interfering at elections?—I am not satisfied that it would do a vast deal of good; the friends of people outside the yard would press just as much.

3677. Do you think that that would be any improvement upon the present system?—Only as giving a sort of tone, and discountenancing it altogether; I think it might do some good.

3678. Sir *Henry F. Davy.*] You stated, did you not, that you approved of the Admiralty circular of September 1849?—Certainly.

3679. What did you conceive the object of that circular to be?—Merely to give the superintendents more power in recommending; to bring the control of the yards more within the reach of the superintendents than they had been before; that was one object.

3680. Your former answer had reference, had it not, to the circular of 1849?—I was alluding to the circular of 1847. *Vide* 3647.

3681. It appears that Mr. Stafford, on the 19th April 1852, issued a circular in the name of the Board, cancelling that previous minute of September 1849?—Yes.

3682. Will you state to the Committee whether you approved of that minute of 1849 which Mr. Stafford cancelled?—It seems to me that it makes very little difference, provided the Surveyor is generally consulted; I do not think that it signifies whether the letters come direct from the Secretary and go to him afterwards, or the other way; I think, as a matter of official form, they should come to the Secretary of the Admiralty; and it is always in the power of the Board to refer to the Surveyor; I think he ought to be consulted; he always should be consulted as to whether vacancies are to be filled up at all; at times it is possible, in one yard, to reduce the labour, and, perhaps, give a little more to another as the work presses; but if every vacancy is to be filled without reference to what is going on, it would be inconvenient.

3683. You consider, that under the circular of 1847, the Surveyor ought still to be consulted in all cases of promotion?—I think so, generally; I do not think it is absolutely necessary that the Board should always consult the Surveyor upon what they do; but, certainly, it is quite right that the Surveyor should have a general knowledge of what is done; I do not think that anything

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should be filled up without his knowing it; in fact, he is always acquainted with the thing; if anything is done he would be acquainted that such and such an appointment had been made.

3684. Upon the whole, you think it would be rather disadvantageous to the service if promotions were carried on generally without the cognizance of the surveyor?—Certainly.

3685. You do not think it very material whether the recommendations should go from the Secretary to the Surveyor, and from him to the Admiralty, or from the Secretary to the Admiralty, and then to pass through the Surveyor?—No, I do not think it is material; as a matter of form, I think it ought to go to the Secretary first, provided the Surveyor is consulted.

3686. *Chairman.*] In all cases in the victualling-yard is not that department specially under one of the Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes; Captain Milne has had it; he is commonly considered the Superintending Lord of the victualling-yards.

3687. He has held that post for some years, has he not?—Yes, since he has been in the office.

[The Witness withdrew.

Admiral Sir *Thomas Herbert*, K.C.B., a Member of The House, Examined.

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3688. *Chairman.*] YOU were appointed a Lord of the Admiralty upon Lord Derby's accession to office?—Yes, in March 1852.

3689. Had you ever previously been in the Admiralty?—No.

3690. Have you ever been a superintendent of a dockyard?—Never.

3691. Have you ever been acquainted, more than as an officer in the navy, with that which may be called the civil administration of the navy?—Nothing more than having been fitting out in almost every yard in the Kingdom; nothing more than the common routine of the business.

3692. Where had you served last?—I was Commander-in-Chief on the South-east Coast of America.

3693. Previously to that, were you in China?—Yes, I was.

3694. Upon your accession to office, was any special department put under your care?—Yes, the Medical Department; the Marines; Greenwich, and the manning of the Fleet.

3695. That department did not bring the question of the promotions in the dockyards at all under your notice?—No, not at all.

3696. Were you consulted previously to the circular of the 19th of April, cancelling Sir Francis Baring's circular?—No, I never heard of it before it was alluded to in the circular of the 26th of April.

3697. When did you first hear of it?—I heard of it, I think it was on the 26th of April.

3698. When you heard of the second circular?—I never heard of it till it was brought before the Board, to show that nothing was meant towards the Surveyor of the Navy; then it was alluded to in that circular; I never saw that of the 19th of April; I only heard of it when this other minute was brought on upon the 21st, where it alludes to that circular.

3699. When the circular of the 26th of April was before the Board, you then first heard of it from the allusion that was made?—Yes; but no remark was made at the Board on that day upon it; I considered that there was something in the withdrawing of this circular that had reference to the Surveyor of the Navy, that he did not like, and therefore that this was in consequence to soothe him; no other conversation occurred.

3700. You did not attach any importance to it as a circular, which had altered the system of promotions in the dockyards?—Not the least. I did not see the least difference that it could have made if it was carried out, whether it went to the Surveyor or came to the Secretary; I saw not the least distinction.

3701. The change appeared to you to be very slight?—Very slight; useless in my opinion.

3702. Was it your opinion that the Surveyor of the Navy ought to be consulted as to vacancies and promotions?—Decidedly. I think the service would not work well unless he is acquainted with everything that goes on in his department, and of course all those promotions in the dockyards.

3703. Was anything brought to your knowledge in any way which made you suspect

suspect or doubt whether the department of the Surveyor of the Navy was using any political influence?—Never; I never heard of it.

3704. Are the Committee to understand that you had no distrust of the Surveyor of the Navy?—Certainly not. He was a very old friend of mine; he was under my orders going out to South America, and he is a man that I have the highest respect for in every way.

3705. Had you any reason to believe that he had used any political influence of any kind?—None, whatever.

3706. With regard to the superintendence of the dockyards, had you any reason to think that they were recommending under any political bias?—No reason whatever. In fact, it was entirely out of my department; but I had no reason to think so in the different yards. I have visited them all, and I have never heard one of the superintendents of the yards make one single complaint.

3707. Then neither on the 26th of April, nor afterwards, did you know of the great difference of opinion that existed and was existing in the department as to the promotions in the dockyards?—Never; not one word of it; nor did I suppose that there was the least difference of opinion till the papers were moved for by Admiral Berkeley in the House of Commons, I think it was the 20th or the 21st of November, and on the following day, the 22d, this notice was read at the Board, to say that such a question was to be answered in the House of Commons that night, relative to the correspondence as to Sir Baldwin Walker's resignation. Until that moment I never heard one word about it, either directly or indirectly.

3708. All those discussions, and the strong language which had been used by Admiral Hyde Parker and others, were new to you?—Perfectly; I never knew of them till I saw them in print.

3709. The Committee have had a letter, dated the 31st of August, put before them, from Admiral Hyde Parker to Commodore Seymour, in which Admiral Hyde Parker says, "Sir Thomas Herbert has put the enclosed letter into my hands, and requests that I would forward it to you from Sir George Berkeley"?—Yes, I saw in the evidence of Commodore Seymour that he alludes to it. The case was simply this, that Sir George Berkeley sent me a letter to say that in the case of a joiner, of the name of Birt, he had been promised by Mr. Edye, the master builder at Devonport, to be appointed to the place of inspector of the planing machines; that he was to go to learn the mode of working the planing machine at Portsmouth; but that when it came to be the time for the man to go there, he selected a man of the name of Oram to go in his place; he, Birt, having voted for Sir George Berkeley, and Oram having voted for Mr. Tufnell. That was merely the purport of the letter. When I got it, I think I saw the Surveyor in Captain Hamilton's office, and I said to him, "Here is something going on here; what is all this? Walker, I think you had better go in before Admiral Hyde Parker;" and I think he said he would bring it before Admiral Hyde Parker; and seeing Admiral Hyde Parker soon after, I said "Here is a letter; you had better send it down to Devonport to Seymour, and hear what he says." That is all I know upon the subject. Admiral Hyde Parker a few days after returned Sir George Berkeley's note, which I sent back to Sir George Berkeley.

3710. When Commodore Seymour returned the letter of Sir George Berkeley, did you see the letter which he wrote to Admiral Hyde Parker in returning that letter?—Admiral Hyde Parker read the contents to me, and said, "Here is what Commodore Seymour says," which was pretty nearly, I believe, what he stated in his evidence; he did not give me the letter.

3711. Did you not perceive the regret which Commodore Seymour expressed at this additional proof of political interference with dockyard establishments?—I do not really recollect the words, but it did not make any impression upon me, knowing as I did that all these things are going on in the dockyards, and have been as long as I recollect; it was always considered that there was a party in the dockyards which, whatever was the Government of the day, had generally great influence.

3712. Did you consider that the circular of 1847 was a mere dead letter that was to have no effect?—No, certainly not; it was one move in the right direction; it was doing as much as you could to correct it.

3713. As that letter makes a strong declaration that merit alone shall ensure promotion, as it calls upon every officer in the service and in the dockyards to assist in working out the system, did you consider that those words were, or not, to be carried into effect?—Decidedly to be carried into effect; and any man who

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did not assist to carry the system into effect, if it was found out, he ought to be dismissed.

3714. Then, if there had been any political interference, either on the part of Mr. Edye, or by any other officer in the yard, on either side, it ought to have been visited with the severe displeasure of the Admiralty?—Decidedly; it is difficult to prove these things, but if it could be proved it ought to be punished, in order to have the spirit of the order carried out; it would be a blank letter if it was not.

3715. Looking at the good of the service and the efficiency of the dockyards, did you approve of the stringency of the circular of February 1847?—Certainly.

3716. As regards the circular of 1849, as I understand, you considered it of small importance, because you considered equally that the Surveyor of the Navy would have an opportunity of giving his opinion upon the promotions?—Certainly; the same as with reference to that of 1847. I thought it was unnecessary.

3717. You heard the evidence of his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, did you not?—Yes, I did.

3718. You heard his Grace say that he thought the circular of 1849 gave the absolute patronage to the Surveyor?—In fact, it virtually did so, because whenever a vacancy took place in the yard, three names are submitted by the officers of the yard to the superintendent; the superintendent scratches out the man whom he thinks the least deserving one out of the three, and then the two names are sent up to the Surveyor or to the Admiralty; but if they are sent to the Surveyor, if he then, not scratching out, recommends one of those two, and if his recommendation is always to be attended to at the Admiralty, it follows that of course the nomination is in the Surveyor of the Navy; it virtually is so; it cannot be otherwise. If two men are sent up, and they go to the Surveyor's office, and he approves of one of those two, and recommends him, and the Admiralty adopt that recommendation in all cases, the appointment rests with the Surveyor of the Navy, if you are never to deviate from that; and that is what I consider his Grace meant by what he said.

3719. If the recommendations first came to the Admiralty, and they were submitted afterwards to the Surveyor, they would be submitted for his remarks?—They would be, most likely; the Secretary, or whoever has the appointment, when the two names come up, would make a reference to or have a consultation with the Surveyor; and they would say which of those two was fitted for the appointment; and that is the kind of way I think the service ought to go on.

3720. Do not you think it better, in order that the men should have a fair chance for promotion, that the report of those consultations should be in writing?—Certainly; there are but two names given, and of those two, it is supposed that one may be better than the other.

3721. Do not you think it desirable, when the two names are sent up, that there should be the observations of the Surveyor of the Navy in regard to the two names?—Certainly; but if the Surveyor's recommendation is always to be attended to, it virtually gives the appointment to the Surveyor.

3722. In regard to vacancies, before filling them up, is it not desirable that the Surveyor of the Navy should have an opportunity of offering his observations?—Certainly, in the dockyards, he knows what work is going to be done, and what men are necessary to do that work.

3723. The superintendent of one dockyard cannot be aware of the general interests of the other dockyards?—No; he is confined entirely to his own department.

3724. The Surveyor, on the other hand, is aware of the general interests of the yards?—Yes; and ought to be; and he is no doubt acquainted with the routine of all the other yards.

3725. Therefore, in filling up vacancies, the opinion of the Surveyor is of value?—Certainly, of great value.

3726. A letter was brought before the attention of the Committee by Captain Richards, from the Admiralty, dated the 24th of May, which stated, "Having laid before my Lords your letter of the 23d instant, No. 81, reporting that you had entered in the vacancy for a forgeman in Chatham Yard a man from private trade, named Matthew Fowler, and requesting instructions in this case, in consequence of William Groves, furnace-man, having been, in the meantime, appointed to this situation

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situation by their Lordships; they direct me to acquaint you, that they cannot but express their surprise that you should have filled up a vacancy which has remained open since September last." Do you remember whether that was agreed to at the Board?—I never heard of it till I heard it read here.

3727. Should you not, if you had received that letter, have considered it a censure upon your conduct?—Certainly I should.

3728. You state that you were not aware of such a letter having been written?—No, it would not come before the Board; certainly it did not come, or I should have known of it; I was very seldom absent; it never came before the Board; I think the Board Minute-book will show that; it was proved here the other day that it had not that minute.

3729. Do not those words "Having laid before my Lords your letter of the 23d instant, rather imply that it had been laid before the Board?—That is the expression they use in all the departments.

3730. That again means nothing?—It is a matter of form; it does not follow as a matter of course that it has been brought before the Board.

3731. How is the superintendent of a dockyard to know what has been before the Board, and what has not?—That belongs to the department of the dockyards; there are certain things that would be brought before the Board if they were of any consequence, but the minor details would not be.

3732. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated, did you not, that you were never consulted as to the cancelling of the circular of 1849?—Yes.

3733. When that subject was brought before the Board, in consequence of what is stated to have taken place between Admiral Hyde Parker and Mr. Stafford and the Surveyor of the Navy, you saw the circular that was sent round on the 26th of April?—It was done by the order of a full Board.

3734. That was the first time you became acquainted with the fact of the circular of the 19th of April having been issued?—The first time.

3735. When you saw the circular that was sent out on the 26th of April, did you believe that the general provisions of the circular of 1847 would be carried out?—Certainly, I had no doubt of it.

3736. Are the Committee to understand that the only difference that you believed would take place by sending out that circular of the 19th of April 1852 would be, that the recommendations would be sent in the first instance to the Secretary instead of being sent in the first instance to the Surveyor; but that the Surveyor would be consulted in reference to the general subject?—Precisely.

3737. That was your impression?—Precisely so.

3738. When did you first hear that the intentions of the circular of 1847 had been violated?—I never heard of it till I saw it in print.

3739. When was that?—It was not until I heard the evidence given before this Committee.

3740. Until evidence was taken before this Committee to show that the provisions of the circular of 1847 had been violated you had no idea, otherwise than that the provisions of that circular were fully carried out?—I never heard one complaint of any kind or sort.

3741. Your belief was that the Surveyor of the Navy had been consulted in reference to the promotions?—Certainly, I had no reason to think otherwise; I was never consulted by any person there. With the permission of the Committee I will read a letter that I have received from Admiral Hornby, which says the same thing; he was one of the Lords of the Admiralty who had been himself a superintendent of a dockyard for many years, and also a superintendent of a victualling-yard, and Commander-in-chief in America, and who has been almost continually employed.

3742. *Chairman.*] Upon a question relating to the discipline and management of the dockyards Admiral Hornby would have been an excellent person to have consulted?—Yes, the most experienced man that we had on the Board, as far as dockyards and civil discipline went. He writes me this letter: "May 8th, 1853. My dear Herbert,—Never during the whole time I was at the Admiralty did Admiral Parker or Sir Baldwin Walker consult with me on any business relating to the dockyards, to the appointments or changes going on therein, or to any other matters relating thereto; nor did Sir Baldwin Walker ever complain to me that he was annoyed with anything that Mr. Stafford either said or did, neither did any of the superintendents complain to me of Mr. Stafford, or anybody else, interfering

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fering irregularly with the dockyards as regards appointments or internal arrangements; I had not the slightest reason to think that all was not going on smoothly till some time after Wells's appointment, which I considered a hasty act on the part of Admiral Parker, and which Stafford, on his return from the Mediterranean, was sure to object to; Admiral Parker never consulted me about anything relative to his particular department, and frequently, when he was absent, I was obliged to ask Dyer what he thought were Parker's intentions respecting the destination of ships, their equipments, &c. &c. I write this from my bed, but I am better, and could come to London if needs must. Yours truly, (signed) *Phipps Hornby.*"

3743. Having read that letter, will you state what department of the Admiralty was specially put under Admiral Hornby?—His department was the discipline of the fleet; the appointment of lieutenants to ships, and all the officers to ships, and the masters and the mates.

3744. Then his situation in the Admiralty, so far as his business was distributed to him, did not bring him into immediate connexion with dockyards?—Not the least, any more than mine.

3745. Admiral Hyde Parker's did, as the Committee understand, bring him into more immediate connexion with the dockyards?—Entirely his business with the dockyards, the distribution of the fleet and the appointment of commanders to line-of-battle ships.

3746. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you remember the questions put in the House of Commons by Admiral Berkeley and Sir George Pechell?—Yes.

3747. You have stated that certain questions were read at the Board previously to their being put in the House of Commons?—Precisely.

3748. Do you recollect the question being put in the House of Commons, and the answer that was given by Mr. Stafford?—Yes, I think I do.

3749. In his answer, he says that the arrangement that was made, and which was assumed to be in existence in 1817, when Sir Henry Ward issued his last regulation, was still in force, and had not been disturbed by the then Board of Admiralty?—Certainly.

3750. In that answer you acquiesced so far as you were informed?—Certainly, and I believed it to be so.

3751. Are you not, in consequence of the evidence given before this Committee, inclined to alter your opinion as to that answer?—I must first find out how it was to be explained away; it appears, as far as the evidence goes, that it has not been.

3752. I appears, as far as the evidence goes, that the circular of 1847 has been disturbed?—It appears to be so in parts of the evidence.

3753. You, as a member of that Board, are not aware that it has been disturbed by the present Board of Admiralty, although it appears by the evidence that it has been disturbed by the Secretary?—Certainly not, as far as I know as a member of the Board, speaking of three of my colleagues, they know nothing of it.

3754. At a meeting of the Board to which reference has been made, held on the 22d or 23d of November, do you remember any allusion being made to any correspondence which had taken place or was supposed to have taken place between the Surveyor and the First Lord of the Admiralty, or the Surveyor of the Navy and the Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes, I do; I was at the Board that day.

3755. What do you remember took place at that Board meeting?—I recollect this: there was a question to be asked that evening in the House of Commons, to know whether there was any correspondence, or whether any correspondence had taken place between the Surveyor of the Navy and the Admiralty, relative to his resignation. I think all the members were at the Board that day, upon which I recollect asking, what does that allude to? what papers are those? and no answer was given by a single individual at the Board, and I presume that there was no correspondence; I did not know of any.

3756. Neither Admiral Hyde Parker nor Mr. Stafford intimated that there had been any correspondence of any sort or kind?—No, nor any member of the Board.

3757. Did you hear the evidence of Captain Dundas given this morning?—Yes.

3758. Did you hear him state that he had received a letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty, from which the Committee might infer that it was a letter from the

the Secretary, requesting him to use his influence in reference to the election going on for the borough of Greenwich?—Yes.

3759. Were you at all aware, previously to hearing Captain Dundas make that statement to the Committee, that the Secretary of the Admiralty had forwarded any such communication to the superintendent of Deptford?—Certainly not.

3760. Do you know at all what sailing orders were given in reference to the trip of the Black Eagle to Devonport?—No, that rested with Admiral Hyde Parker.

3761. Did Mr. Stafford state at the Board that it was his intention, either in the month of April or in the month of May or June, to make any visit to Devonport?—I do not recollect; he might have said something of the kind, but I do not remember it.

3762. Can you recollect whether Mr. Stafford made any report to the Board as to his visit to Portsmouth and Devonport in the month of April or in the month of June?—None was brought before the Board.

3763. You did not know at all what duties he performed, or what he did as Secretary of the Admiralty at either of those places?—No.

3764. Your attention has been called to a letter addressed by Captain Richards to the Secretary to the Admiralty, and the answer which was sent by the Secretary to Captain Richards; Captain Richards's letter is dated the 23d of May 1852, and it has reference to the promotion of William Groves to a vacancy for forgeman in Chatham Dockyard, and he says, "That acting under the instructions of the Lord of the Admiralty of the 6th of October 1851, to enter a forgeman from private trade, Matthew Fowler, the forgeman who worked the new forge so satisfactorily on the recent experimental trial, having offered himself on the 19th instant, and believing him to be a thoroughly expert and well skilled workman, I caused him to be entered as forgeman." In reply to that letter, he receives this communication: "Having laid before my Lords your letter of the 23d instant (No. 81), reporting that you had entered, in the vacancy for a forgeman in Chatham Yard, a man from private trade named Matthew Fowler, and requesting instructions in this case in consequence of William Groves, furnace man, having been in the meantime appointed to this situation by their Lordships, they direct me to acquaint you that they cannot but express their surprise that you should have filled up a vacancy which has remained open since September last, at the very time when the subject was under their consideration; my Lords desire that you will cause their Lordships' Order of the 21st instant to be carried into immediate execution. By command of their Lordships, *Augustus Stafford*." When the noble chairman called your attention to these words, "Having laid before my Lords your letter of the 23d instant," you said that meant nothing?—I say as to the words, it is the usual minute; for instance, if I give a minute in my department for a medical officer to be appointed, I apprehend it would be "By their Lordships' Command;" the minute would go to be dealt with in my private department; it would not be brought before the Board; but that is the expression they use.

3765. But a minute of that kind coming from you, as one of the Lords, would naturally carry greater authority with it than one coming from the Secretary?—Yes; but if he appointed a man to one of the civil departments in the dockyards or in Somerset-house, the words would be, "By command of their Lordships;" I think that has been explained to the Committee by the evidence that has been given before; I think Mr. Hay, in his evidence, explained that, and I can say nothing more than Mr. Hay has said.

3766. Are the Committee to understand, that when the Secretary writes and states what are the views of the Board, that he naturally signs "By command of their Lordships"?—Yes.

3767. But this is a letter in which the Secretary says, "Having laid before my Lords your letter of the 23d instant;" should you conceive that the Secretary ought to make a statement of that kind when he has not laid the letter before their Lordships?—I know that the Secretary has no power to do anything nominally himself, and as a matter of form the Secretary writes, "Having laid before my Lords your letter."

3768. The Committee are to understand, so far as you are concerned, that you knew nothing of this letter, which is stated to have been laid before their Lordships?—No, it never came before the Board, to the best of my recollection.

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3769. *Chairman.*] If it came before the Board, there would be a minute of it, would there not?—Certainly, there would be a Board minute, and you would know exactly who were present.

3770. Sir *B. Hall.*] Then the Secretary says, that he is directed by their Lordships "to acquaint you, that they cannot but express their surprise that you should have filled up a vacancy" that you are wholly ignorant of?—Wholly; I never heard of it till I heard of it here.

3771. Is there any way whatever in which, when the superintendent of a dockyard, or other chief officer of an establishment, receives a letter of this kind, he can know whether this letter is merely the *ipse dixit* of the Secretary himself, or whether it comes actually by command of their Lordships?—I think the only way he would know it would be in this way: if it were in reference to the general system of his dockyard, or any alteration, he would know that it came by a minute of the Board itself, but if it had reference to appointments, civil appointments in the yard, he must be aware that it came from the person who had the appointment of those civil appointments, and that would be from the Secretary.

3772. That would be as regards the Secretary?—Yes.

3773. But this letter has reference to a different subject?—If I understand you rightly, or if I understand the evidence, it is this; there was a certain submission for a man come up from Captain Richards for a vacancy in the yard, and this vacancy had been open for a considerable time; and the appointment to that vacancy rested with the Secretary; the Secretary appoints a man to the vacancy, and when the man goes down, the Secretary finds that the place has been filled up by the superintendent; then the Secretary, if I understand it, expresses his surprise that the superintendent has filled it up; I think that is what took place.

3774. *Chairman.*] In the evidence which has been given before this Committee, we have had a letter from the Admiralty, dated the 6th day of October 1851, authorizing the captain superintendent to take such measures as were necessary for selecting a suitable person for the vacancy from the private trade?—It appeared that the superintendent had the power, which was not rescinded, to fill it up, and there was a mistake between him and the Secretary, and the letter to Mr. Ward saying that he had not a right to fill it up, must have been sent under a mistake; that I think is quite clear; the power was proved clearly.

3775. A letter was sent to him on the 8th of May, inquiring respecting the qualifications of Groves for that place?—I know nothing about it; it was stated here.

3776. If the Admiralty intended then that the superintendent should not fill it up from the private trade, they ought in their first notice so to have informed him?—I should think so.

3777. Otherwise, as I understand you, the superintendent of Chatham Dockyard had full authority to fill up the place from the private trade, had he not?—By that letter which was produced here; I cannot speak from my own knowledge; the paper never came before me, but the evidence that was given here was very clear upon it.

3778. Will you look at that letter, and state whether it came before the Board [*A paper being handed to the Witness*]?—No, it is not stamped for a Board Minute; it is not a Board Minute, it would be stamped if it was.

3779. Are there not the initials of any Lord to it?—I believe the man that did it, the précis writer's name; I do not think there is any Lord's name, I do not see it.

[The Witness withdrew.

Henry Frederick Amedroz, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

H. F. Amedroz, Esq.

3780. *Chairman.*] WILL you look at that paper—[*a paper being handed to the Witness*]—and state whether that is a Board minute?—No, that is not a Board minute.

3781. Is it initialed by any Lord of the Admiralty?—No, it is not.

3782. It is a letter from the Secretary, is it not; by authority of the Secretary?—It is a minute made and signed by him.

3783. Initialed by whom?—By me, as executing it.

3784. As a matter of form, does the Secretary of the Admiralty write, "Having laid before my Lords your letter," as a matter of course, without in consequence

consequence laying the letter before a Lord?—Yes, in every case, the slightest as well as the greatest; the more important letters only are habitually brought before the Board; but in any case the term is the same; the Secretary has no right to write or do anything nominally himself. *H. F. Amedroz, Esq.* 10 May 1853.

3785. You state that the more important cases are brought before their Lordships; that, apparently, is entirely at his discretion what he shall bring before them, and what he shall withhold?—Yes.

3786. In each case he would equally write, "Having laid it before my Lords"?—In any case.

3787. Then how is the person who receives that letter to know whether or not it has been before their Lordships; can he know it?—I believe it is considered that he ought not to know it, and that any letter from the Admiralty ought to be considered as coming from the Board; but from the extent of the correspondence it must be subdivided amongst their Lordships, and the Secretary also.

3788. It is usual, is it not, for letters of that kind to be shown to any one of the Lords; for instance, a letter relating to the dockyards to be shown to the Lord under whom the dockyards are more especially placed?—I could scarcely answer; but the appointments at the dockyard being under the Secretary, it would have appeared to me to be perfectly regular on executing it.

[The Witness withdrew.

Admiral Sir *Thomas Herbert*, K.C.B., a Member of the House; further Examined.

3789. DO you recollect that Mr. Stafford consulted you before appointing Mr. Cotsell to Portsmouth?—He may have mentioned the subject to me. Admiral Sir *T. Herbert*, K.C.B., M.P.

3790. You are not aware whether he brought under your notice that there had been a great difference of opinion between him and Admiral Hyde Parker upon the subject?—He told me, at least Mr. Piers in his evidence mentions, that I went into Captain Hamilton's office relative to Wells; I went by accident from the Board-room into Captain Hamilton's room, which is next to the Board-room, and there Captain Hamilton said, "Here is the submission of a man from the private trade to be appointed smith to Portsmouth, and it is done by Admiral Hyde Parker, in whose province it does not lie, and therefore it is irregular; what am I to do with it?" I said the best thing is to go to Admiral Hyde Parker and acquaint him that it is not in his province; I dare say he has done it without thinking about it. It is possible he may have had some communication with the Duke of Northumberland on the subject; and that being so, you had better go and set it right, and do nothing till you see him, to know whether he really has the power to do it; I think it is irregular. That is all that occurred.

3791. You did not speak yourself to Admiral Hyde Parker on that subject?—No, I did not; the thing was brought to my notice in that way; I just stated what I now state.

3792. When it was stated to you, you were not aware of the communications between Admiral Hyde Parker and the Surveyor, or the strong feelings of Admiral Hyde Parker in regard to the expediency of bringing a man from the private trade?—Not a syllable.

3793. Those matters were not brought to your notice?—No; I never heard one word about it; the Board was never consulted whether it was prudent or wise, or not; when Mr. Stafford came back, Admiral Hornby and myself were then talking about it, that Cotsell was a very good man, who was at Chatham, and that Mr. Stafford intended to appoint him to the place; I said, "He is a very good man, or something of that kind; and I took no more notice about it; it was not in my department at all.

3794. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] You subsequently signed the appointment of Mr. Cotsell?—Yes, as I would of Wells; if Wells's had been made out for the place, if I had not had the conversation with Captain Hamilton after Wells's appointment had come into my room from the proper office, I should have signed it, and not hesitated for a moment; I should have thought it all right in the same way that Cotsell's came, and I signed it; I presumed, that coming from the Commission branch, from the gentlemen who are in that room, they would bring no improper paper to my room; if they did bring an improper paper, and it was found out afterwards, they would be dismissed.

3795. The signature of a Lord of the Admiralty would only show that the document

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document had gone through the proper form?—Yes, and that it is regular when documents are brought before you; you cannot inquire into the whole of them.

3796. A Lord of the Admiralty has not time to take upon himself the reponsibility of all the facts that may be involved in the document; his signature only proves that it has gone through the proper form?—Yes, that is exactly the case with Cotsell and Wells, and the different officers who signed it.

3797. Sir *Henry F. Davie.*] If it had been a question as to any particular department, and your own charge, you would have considered yourself responsible?—Yes.

3798. But this being in Mr. Stafford's department of patronage, you merely put your name to it, as a matter of form?—As a matter of form, to give it legal effect.

[The Witness withdrew.

Mr. *John Fincham*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *J. Fincham.*

3799. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation have you held at Portsmouth?—Master Shipwright.

3800. For how long were you master shipwright?—I was altogether 18 years; not only at Portsmouth, but at three different yards.

3801. Will you state the three yards in which you have been master shipwright?—Sheerness, Chatham and Portsmouth.

3802. How long were you at Portsmouth?—From 1844; eight years, I think.

3803. Before you were master shipwright, had you held any office previously in a dockyard?—Yes, Superintendent of the School of Naval Architecture.

3804. How long had you held that post?—About 20 years.

3805. As master shipwright at Portsmouth, had you any immediate communications with the master smith?—Yes, constantly; his department was entirely under my superintendence.

3806. Who had been master smith at Portsmouth before 1852?—Mr. Tyler.

3807. How long had he been master smith?—I judge about four or five years, I cannot remember exactly.

3808. Have you visited the smitheries at Woolwich?—Yes, I have.

3809. Did you visit the smitheries at Woolwich after they had been under the management of a person from the private trade?—I did.

3810. Did you think that they were greatly improved?—I did not; quite the contrary.

3811. Your opinion was, that they were not much improved?—Not much improved.

3812. As to the quantity of work done?—As to that I cannot speak, as it never came before me.

3813. When you say that they were not improved, in what respect did you judge of their state of improvement?—The character which they bore; having had considerable experience in smitheries, I could see whether they did bear any character of improvement or advancement, and I do not believe they did. One point was this: I did not like the mode of dampers not being properly in the furnaces, in which there was a great consumption of fuel; it caused a greater consumption of fuel, and that I named at the time.

3814. You think that the system at Woolwich led to a great waste of fuel?—Not generally; I only judged from this one instance of the furnace for the steam-hammer.

3815. Not seeing the dampers properly placed, you thought the fuel was wasted?—Yes, and I think I named it to the person at the time; it is four or five years back, or more.

3816. You did not ascertain whether or not, in proportion to the work done, there was waste in the works at Woolwich?—I could not do that; it was not in my power to do it; it was only a cursory visit.

3817. So far as that cursory visit informed you, you did not think that the employment of a person from a private yard had benefited the smitheries?—No, I did not.

3818. Did you consider Mr. Tyler, who was master smith at Portsmouth, had his smitheries quite in an equal state to those at Woolwich?—I cannot say much for Mr. Tyler.

3819. Had

3819. Had the smitheries got rather into a backward state under Mr. Tyler's superintendence?—I think so.

3820. They required some energetic master smith to bring them to a state of efficiency?—Yes, they did.

3821. You have been at Chatham, have you not?—Yes.

3822. As master shipwright?—Yes.

3823. While you were at Chatham as master shipwright, you were acquainted with Mr. Cotsell, were you not?—No, he was never under me at all.

3824. He had come to Chatham, had he not?—No.

3825. Then what opportunity had you of judging of Mr. Cotsell's efficiency as master smith at Chatham?—On reputation, and on my visit to the smithery, at the same time I visited the one at Woolwich, I observed a great difference in the manner in which that smithery was conducted; I saw that he was making moulds or dies for forming the iron under forges, which appeared to be a great improvement, and I endeavoured to get that carried out many times.

3826. Are the Committee to understand that you having paid a cursory visit to the smithery at Woolwich, and also to the smithery at Chatham, you considered the smithery at Chatham in a superior state to the smithery at Woolwich?—Yes, I did.

3827. Did you do more at Chatham than you had done at Woolwich, in the way of acquiring information respecting the smithery?—Yes.

3828. Did you stay at Chatham any time?—Yes, longer; I was more frequently at the smithery.

3829. Several days?—Yes.

3830. You inquired more particularly into the smithery?—Yes, and my impression was, that it was better conducted, decidedly.

3831. It has been stated that you were desirous of having the aid of Mr. Cotsell at Portsmouth?—Yes, I was; from visiting the place and seeing the manner in which he conducted his smithery, having moulds made which would lead to a saving of labour, I was under the impression that he was a very intelligent man.

3832. Were you aware whether or not the engineer who was at the head of the metal mills at Chatham had introduced any improvements into the smithery in that yard?—I was not aware of that at all.

3833. When you visited it you did not ascertain that?—No, I did not.

3834. As I understand you, you were desirous of having Mr. Cotsell at Portsmouth?—Yes, I was.

3835. You thought that he would raise that smithery into a more efficient state than it had been under Mr. Tyler?—That was my impression.

3836. In the end of September 1852 Mr. Wells came down to the smithery?—I was not there; I left in July.

3837. You had not the advantage of seeing what Cotsell did at Portsmouth?—No; I must state that my impression was grounded upon his reputation and inspection; he came down to me to inspect the furnaces.

3838. He came down to the furnaces at Portsmouth?—Yes, to make an introduction, that of expending the waste heat up the flues, by working the iron by it.

3839. When was that?—About four years ago.

3840. Did he suggest any improvement in the smithery, which was then in a somewhat inefficient state, under Mr. Tyler?—He did several, I think, more particularly that of making moulds, by which a vast saving of labour was effected.

3841. That system was adopted?—Yes, I think so; the great saving was in the consumption of the heat from the furnace, that would have been lost; he welded several hoops before me by means obtained from the furnaces that would have been waste heat; I think that a very great improvement.

3842. You having been master shipwright for many years, were one of the principal officers recommending men for promotion?—Yes.

3843. Before recommending men under you for promotion, you inquired into their qualifications, did you not?—Yes, I always knew their qualifications.

3844. You then submitted them to the superintendent?—Yes; three names always, after examination first, till that examination dropped, which I was very sorry for.

3845. When was it dropped?—I think about six months ago.

3846. The examination of shipwrights?—Yes, it was altogether dropped.

3847. Under what direction was that examination dropped?—I do not remember that there were any directions that I am aware of.

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3848. Were they ordered to be examined by any directions?—While the superintendent, Admiral Prescott, was there, he always insisted upon it; but it was in consequence of the circular of Sir Henry Ward that we did it.

3849. Under the circular of Sir Henry Ward, Admiral Prescott desired an examination into the qualifications of the shipwrights?—Everybody; he always had them thoroughly examined, and it produced a great moral effect in the yard.

3850. Who were the examiners?—Myself and my two assistants, and the head master of the school as to mathematics.

3851. That was by the direction of Admiral Prescott?—Yes, always.

3852. He always insisted upon them being examined?—Yes.

3853. Were any other persons in the yard examined besides the shipwrights?—Yes, the joiners and caulkers in Porstmouth Yard.

3854. Were any others examined?—I am not aware that there were; I am sure there were not.

3855. You consider that the examination had a very good effect?—Very good, indeed; it induced them to read and study and improve their minds; and in the second place, it insured us getting talented men to recommend to the superintendent.

3856. When was the system discontinued?—I cannot recollect.

3857. Was it upon Admiral Prescott's leaving?—Very likely.

3858. At Chatham was there a system of examination pursued?—No; it had not been introduced then.

3859. Then, after the system of examination had been discontinued, how did you ascertain the qualifications of the persons whose names you recommended to the superintendent?—My knowledge of them, and my officers, whom I always consulted.

3860. You did not think that so satisfactory as an examination?—No, nothing like it; it was a very salutary thing to examine them.

3861. When you had submitted the names to the superintendent and the promotions were made, were you, while you were for eight years at Portsmouth, satisfied with the choice as regarded promotion?—Always. Admiral Prescott invariably took the recommendations; we always gave three names, and he took two and omitted one.

3862. So far as you were aware, the ultimate selection of men for promotion was fair and good?—Fair and good.

3863. Were you ever in any dockyard in which a person was introduced from the private trade?—Never as an officer. I have had the private trade coming to me to recommend them, anchor-smiths more particularly; they went to the men, and the men used to come to me to know if they should go; some of the men wanted to go to the private trade, but they never went.

3864. Some of the men in the dockyard wanted to go to the private trade?—Yes; not long before I left for Portsmouth, Cooper came to ask my leave to go to London, to get into some factory in the private trade; he was a good anchor-smith, and I rather persuaded him not to go; they offered him 10 *s.* a day, and he went up, but he soon came back.

3865. What was he getting in the yard?—Four shillings. I recommended him not to go to get 10 *s.*; I said, "This is a permanent establishment; you are very comfortable; do not leave the yard;" and he did not.

3866. That was because he was in a permanent place?—Yes.

3867. Would he have superannuation, being in a permanent place?—Yes, he has it now.

3868. Therefore they had the advantage of superannuation, though not of high wages?—Yes.

3869. Was Admiral Prescott the superintendent at Portsmouth Dockyard when you left?—Yes, he was; he left about a few weeks afterwards; three weeks.

3870. If the examination was discontinued while Admiral Prescott was still there, it could not have been discontinued upon his leaving?—No; I am not aware of any promotions taking place between the interval of the examination and Admiral Prescott's leaving; I am not sure that any more examinations after I left, in Admiral Prescott's time, took place.

3871. Admiral Prescott was the superintendent when you left, was he not?—We left very nearly together

3872. Consequently

3872. Consequently, if the examinations were discontinued, they must have been discontinued while Admiral Prescott was superintendent of the yard?—I am not aware that they were not; to my knowledge, he never discontinued them while he was there.

3873. They were never discontinued while you were there?—No.

3874. When you speak of the examination being discontinued, you are speaking of the time subsequently to your leaving?—Yes.

3875. That is not from anything that you knew while in the yard yourself?—No.

3876. Do you know the name of the superintendent who ordered the examinations to be discontinued?—No, I do not; I do not know that any order was given; all I know is, that the last promotions were not by examinations.

3877. You stated that you never were in a dockyard into which a man from the private trade had been introduced?—Not to my knowledge, as an officer.

3878. Should you think it an injustice to the men in the yard to introduce a person from the private trade?—I do; I think it acts badly for the service; in the first place, it reduces their zeal and energy; and in the next place, a blacksmith should be fully acquainted with the duties of the dockyard, the smithery of the dockyard, and with the requirements of the dockyard, which I do not think the private trade can.

3879. Where you had an inefficient master smith, for instance, like Mr. Tyler?—I did not say that he was altogether inefficient, but not a good one.

3880. How then is the service to be improved upon his retirement, if you do not go to the private trade?—If he is anything very bad we should recommend him for superannuation.

3881. Would you take the next man who had been working under him in the yard, though he might be inefficient?—I am not aware; we have men under him very efficient indeed.

3882. As you consider it unfair somewhat to the men to go into the private trade, do you think it unfair to go into another dockyard and fetch any man from there?—Not at all; in whatever Royal yard we can get the best men for the service.

3883. You do not think it unfair to the next man who has the next claim to be master smith, that he should be passed over, and that another man should be brought in?—I would submit to the words of the regulation and let them be examined, and take the best man.

3884. You would not admit a man from a private yard?—No; because it reduces the energy of the men in the yard; such a man, as an officer, could not be acquainted with the requirements of the yard. There are certain duties which I do not think that the private trade thoroughly understand; for instance, I could mention that we have a great deal of iron work that has to be fitted to curved angular surfaces. Now, the application of moulds to them, if not properly applied, would destroy labour amazingly, and I do not believe, generally speaking, except in ship-yards, that they do understand this; and it is the duty of the master smith to see that the men properly apply these moulds; that is one part of his duty.

3885. Are there no private ship-yards in which the very same things are done?—There may be. I have not seen them to a great extent; but if a man is qualified, let him come from where he may, from any yard in the service, it is our duty to get the best qualified man; and that sort of superiority, I should think, should counteract what I mentioned before. If his qualifications are very superior he ought to be selected, otherwise it must depress the energies and zeal of the people; for there are talented and good men; we have several of them, talented and good smiths, and whatever may be said, that is the fact.

3886. As you have had many years' experience as a master shipwright, I wish to ask you whether you think there is any injury done to the discipline of the yard, or to the service, in transferring to a yard again a person who has held an inferior situation in that yard?—I do not; I myself was in Portsmouth Yard for, I should think, 50 years, in every gradation, and I am sure that never interfered with the service at all, but gave me a command over the people, knowing their qualifications better.

3887. You had yourself been in Portsmouth, occupying an inferior grade?—Yes, several grades.

3888. Were you then removed to Chatham, and did you then come back as master shipwright to Portsmouth?—Yes.

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3889. Coming back in that way, you did not find that your former service had interfered, but that it gave you an advantage?—I was better acquainted with the qualifications of the men.

3890. Did you write to Sir Baldwin Walker in favour of Mr. Cotsell?—I did, when Mr. Tyler was to be superannuated; I visited Chatham and Woolwich Dockyards, to find the best smiths that I could recommend; it was an important yard, and ought to have a good man, and I wrote to Sir Baldwin Walker and recommended Mr. Cotsell.

3891. Did you mention it to the superintendent at Portsmouth?—No, I did not; it was a private letter to Sir Baldwin Walker.

3892. Did Sir Baldwin Walker answer that letter?—No; I have no recollection, at least, of it.

[The Witness withdrew.

Sir *Baldwin Walker,* called in; and further Examined.

Sir *B. Walker.*

3893. *Chairman.*] YOU were asked a question by the Honourable Member for Marylebone, on the first day of your examination, respecting the pressure put upon Mr. Stafford by certain members of the Government, in which you stated that he mentioned to you as the persons Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer?—Yes.

3894. As that has led to letters being sent to this Committee from Lord Derby and from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it becomes necessary to ask you whether you are very confident that that was the way in which the names were introduced by Mr. Stafford, because in the course of conversation it may be that you were somewhat mistaken, though he may have introduced the names, as to the sense in which he introduced them. He says that he mentioned, "That the Government of Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not, any more than any other Government, allow the patronage to be in the hands of their opponents;" that, you observe, is a considerable qualification of the use of those words, and have you such an accurate memory of a conversation that took place so long ago as the 15th of April last, as to be certain of the way in which those words were used?—I am quite positive, on two different occasions, that Mr. Stafford made use of the expression, "There is no use blinking the question; I am so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that I cannot help myself."

3895. Sir *B. Hall.*] You say that he used this expression twice?—He did.

3896. In answer to question 130, you made use of these words: "That," meaning the words, "there is no use blinking the question; I am so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that I cannot help myself," "was again repeated in the presence of Admiral Parker, during the interview I had on the subject of tendering my resignation." Are you also confident that those words were made use of in the presence of Admiral Hyde Parker during the interval to which you refer?—I am; I will give this explanation: I was most anxious not to bring before this Committee what I could not prove, and a day or two before the meeting of the Committee, I requested Admiral Berkeley to ask Admiral Hyde Parker whether he would have any objection to my reading that part of the statement with reference to what took place in his presence and in the presence of Admiral Berkeley, and Admiral Berkeley asked him that question; Admiral Hyde Parker said he was most anxious to hear it; I went into Admiral Hyde Parker's room with Admiral Berkeley a day or two before the meeting of this Committee, and I read from this paper what I stated before this Committee as to what took place at that interview, which I will again read; this is what I read to Admiral Parker in the presence of Admiral Berkeley.

3897. Is that the same paper from which you then read?—Yes, it is; "On the same day (the 21st April 1852), I wrote the letter tendering my resignation, which was addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty; that letter I read to the Senior Naval Lord, Vice-Admiral Parker, he being immediately connected with my department (Captain Milne was present at the time); Admiral Parker took the letter, and told me that he would bring it before the Board; I think it was on the following day that I was sent for, and Admiral Parker asked me if I would meet Mr. Stafford in his room to talk over the subject of that letter, which I did, and during that interview the order cancelling the circular of September 1849 and warmly discussed, and Mr. Stafford again repeated what he had stated on a former

former occasion, namely, "There is no use blinking the question; the fact is, I am so pressed"—which I read to Admiral Parker—"by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, I cannot help myself."

3898. Those are the words?—Yes, that I read in the presence of Admiral Berkeley to Admiral Hyde Parker. "On my stating to Mr. Stafford that cancelling the circular must lower me in the opinion of the superintendents of the dockyards, he assured me that such was not his intention, and that he was ready to write any private letter I thought proper to them; to which I replied, that I required no private communication; his had been a public act, and it could only be rectified by a public act; to which Mr. Stafford said, that he saw no objection to a public letter being sent. I then told Mr. Stafford that was a question for the Board to decide, I had tendered my resignation, and it was for the Board to say what was to be done. Mr. Stafford then read a draft of a circular he proposed should be brought before the Board for their decision."

3899. *Chairman.*] You say you read that?—Yes, in the presence of Admiral Hyde Parker and Admiral Berkeley; and Admiral Hyde Parker stated that he recollected the circumstance perfectly well. Admiral Berkeley said, "Surely Mr. Stafford could not have been so imprudent as to have made use of that expression;" and I think Admiral Hyde Parker's answer was, "Yes, he did."

3900. You say you think Admiral Hyde Parker's expression was, "Yes, he did"?—Yes; I may say that that was the expression to the best of my belief and recollection.

3901. This conversation, as it would appear now from the evidence which the Committee have obtained, took place on the same day on which the draft of the second circular was read?—It did.

3902. Was that on the 25th or 26th of April?—No; it has been stated that it was on the 26th, my impression is that it was on the 23d.

3903. You have no documents at your office by which to ascertain exactly when it did take place?—My impression is, that I took the letter tendering my resignation on the morning of the 22d to Admiral Hyde Parker; the meeting took place on the following day or the day after; I cannot be positive as to the day.

3904. Sir *B. Hall.*] Have you a perfect recollection of the interview you had with Admiral Hyde Parker and Mr. Stafford, when Admiral Hyde Parker held your letter of resignation in his hand?—I have.

3905. It is stated at page 22, and in Question 295, put to Admiral Hyde Parker, "Had you the letter" (that is, the letter of resignation) "in your hand when Mr. Stafford and Sir Baldwin Walker met in your room?—Admiral *Hyde Parker*: I had; I had it out of the cover in my hand. (296.) You did not read the letter upon that occasion?—No. (297.) But the purport was made the subject of conversation?—Yes, it was." Did Admiral Hyde Parker hold your letter of resignation in his hand during the time that you had that interview with Mr. Stafford?—He had my letter of resignation during the whole of that interview.

3906. Did you discuss the contents of that letter in such a way that Mr. Stafford must have been aware of the purport of that document?—No further than in the terms I have just stated, that I had tendered my resignation, and that it was for the Board to decide what was to be done; I am not aware that anything beyond that took place.

3907. Admiral Hyde Parker says "But the purport was made the subject of conversation; yes it was;" was that the case?—I am not aware of anything beyond what I have stated; I may mention that when the interview was brought to a close, Mr. Stafford went up to Admiral Hyde Parker; my impression was, that he was going to take the letter out of his hand, but he did not.

3908. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] By "purport" do you mean that your resignation was the subject of conversation, or the dissatisfaction you had expressed at being as it were slighted by the minute of the 19th April?—That an imputation had been cast upon my character by the cancelling of the circular.

3909. Sir *B. Hall.*] But the contents of the letter were not the subject of conversation?—Not beyond what I have already stated to the best of my belief.

3910. *Chairman.*] As to the evidence that has been just given to the Committee, are you aware when the system of examination to which Mr. Fincham referred

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referred was given up?—Never, to my knowledge; I think Mr. Fincham has made a mistake; I am not aware of any order, or anything of the sort.

3911. Do you believe that the system of examination still goes on?—It has gone on since 1847; it has never ceased, to my knowledge.

3912. You think the system desirable, do you not, for the purpose of obtaining the best men?—Yes, most desirable.

3913. Therefore if it had been discontinued you would regret its discontinuance?—Very much; if it had been discontinued I should have been aware of it, having seen the documents; I did not see the documents in 1852, but Mr. Fincham states that it was discontinued in 1852; I think he is under a wrong impression.

Charles Henry Pennell, Esq., was called in; and Examined.

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3914. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation do you hold?—I am the senior clerk of the Civil Department in the Admiralty.

3915. Is that the department in which a circular to the dockyards would be prepared?—Yes.

3916. Was the circular of the 19th of April 1852 prepared in your department?—It was.

3917. Had the previous circular of September 1849, issued by Sir Francis Baring's directions, been prepared in your department?—It was.

3918. On the preparation of the circular of the 19th of April 1852, after it had been prepared what became of that document?—It went to the précis writer, and from him to the Record Office, in the ordinary course.

3919. Would the précis writer make a note of its reception?—He would make a note of its contents.

3920. Was a copy of that circular forwarded to the Surveyor?—Not a copy; the Surveyor was acquainted.

3921. He was acquainted from your department?—Yes; there is a book containing an entry of the letter.

3922. Will you just refer to that entry (*the Witness referred to the entry*)?—"With reference to their Lordships' order of the 26th of September 1849."

3923. Was that directed to the Surveyor of the Navy?—Yes, in common with the superintendents. "With reference to their Lordships' order of the 26th September 1849, which directs that all reports and correspondence on the subject of vacancies, promotion, or changes of the officers and workmen of the dockyards, shall be forwarded through the Surveyor's department; I am to acquaint you that the order in question is to be considered as cancelled, and that in future such reports and correspondence are to be transmitted direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty. By command of their Lordships, (signed) *Augustus Stafford.* Captain Superintendents, Deptford, Woolwich, Sheerness, Portsmouth, Devonport, Pembroke, Surveyor, acquainted."

3924. You have not got there a minute of the form in which the Surveyor was acquainted; he would not be acquainted by having a copy of it?—No, he would be acquainted with the contents of the letter, very nearly verbatim.

3925. Lord *Hotham.*] In a letter?—Yes.

3926. *Chairman.*] He would be acquainted by a letter which would be very nearly a copy of that minute?—Yes.

3927. Are you positive that the circular was communicated to the Surveyor of the Navy?—I have no doubt whatever, as it appears in the entry book.

3928. There is a direction that it should be done, but are the Admiralty so regular in everything that the Committee can be certain that it was done?—The thing was not only directed to be done, but the entry is a record of the thing that was actually done.

3929. How is that?—Because the copying clerk would only copy it from the actual letter.

3930. It says only, "Acquaint the Surveyor"?—No, it says, "Surveyor acquainted;" this is an entry of the letter, showing that he was acquainted.

3931. Upon what day would that have been done?—On the 19th of April, the day that the letter was written; on the same day the Surveyor was acquainted, as appears by this book.

3932. If such a letter was sent to the Surveyor, ought not the Surveyor's department to have a record of it?—I am not aware of the form in which the business

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business is conducted there. I have endeavoured to ascertain at our office whether this letter could be traced, but as there are several letters sent to the Surveyor's department in a day, and the messenger cannot know their contents, there are no means of identifying a particular letter.

3933. That circular was prepared in your department?—Yes.

3934. From the minute?—Yes.

3935. From whom did you receive the minute?—In the ordinary course, I should receive it from the chief clerk; the minute would be made at the Board, and would come down to the chief clerk, who would send it to me in a case.

3936. Who is the chief clerk?—Mr. Hay.

3937. You say that there is a record of the minute having been received by the précis writer?—Yes, I looked at his books.

3938. After that, it ought to go to the Record Office?—Yes. I may add, if the Surveyor had not been acquainted, the fault would have been mine.

3939. Mr. Barrow was asked whether the minute had been received in the Record Department, and he writes, "The minute of the 19th of April 1852, for the circular alluded to, has not been received in the Record Department"; therefore, after it had been received by the précis writer, if it was so received it must have been lost before it got to the Record Department, must it not?—It probably may have reached the Record Office; but in consequence of discussions arising upon it before it was digested or indexed, it may have been asked for by some individual member of the Board, and in that way it may have escaped being digested or indexed in the ordinary course.

3940. How soon in the common course of things would it have been digested and indexed?—Usually the next day.

3941. That would be before much notice had been taken of it; are the Committee to understand that very little notice was taken of it for some days?—I merely state the general fact, that letters may sometimes escape being digested or indexed in consequence of some member of the Board wishing to have them, and sending for them before they have gone through that process, which possibly may account for this one not having been digested or indexed.

3942. Supposing it had been intended to send the minute to the Surveyor at Somerset House, would it have been sent forward to the Record Department to be indexed?—Yes.

3943. That would have been the regular course?—Yes; it would not, however, have been the regular course to send an original minute of this kind to the Surveyor; but if required by him it would of course be sent, after having been properly indexed in the Record Office.

[The Witness withdrew.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, called in; and further Examined.

Sir *B. Walker.*

3944. *Chairman.*] WHEN were you made acquainted with the issue of that circular of the 19th of April 1852?—I was made acquainted with it by the returns from the dockyards on the 21st of April 1852; the day that I wrote that letter; I have had a search made in my office; every paper received from the Admiralty is noted and numbered, but there is no trace of it in the office. Mr. Eden is here, and he has, by my desire, on two or three occasions searched the returns to the Board, and he can state to the Committee that there is no trace to be found at Somerset House.

3945. It is the practice to use the words "Surveyor acquainted;" that means, does it not, that the letter to the Surveyor has been sent?—One would suppose so.

3946. You state that every paper you received would be entered in some way?—It is always entered and numbered before anything is done with it.

3947. The first thing is to enter and number it?—Yes, generally speaking; if it is a pressing thing, perhaps a minute is made and it is entered and sent forward both together; but there is always a number and date when received.

3948. If the papers should be afterwards lost or abstracted, the number would be missing, and that would show that some such thing had happened?—Yes.

3949. Is there any number missing which would point to any paper of this kind having been lost?—None; there is no number of its ever having been received.

3950. Are the numbers complete at that time, or was there any other paper that was lost at that time?—I think they are all complete.

[The Witness withdrew.

Walter Eden, Esq.; called in; and further Examined.

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3951. *Chairman.*] WITH regard to the papers that come from the Admiralty to Somerset House, the Committee have been informed that they are first entered and numbered, is that so?—Yes.

3952. That is invariably the case?—Yes, I may say so.

3953. Do two or three letters sometimes come in one cover?—Yes, generally.

3954. In that case would they be entered under one number?—Each would bear a separate number.

3955. Have you searched for any information relating to this circular?—Yes, I have looked particularly.

3956. You have found no record of it?—No record whatever.

3957. Did you find any number missing, so as to show that some papers may have been lost, which may have contained that information?—No, it would not supply that information; we have a register-book numbered from top to bottom, and as the letters come in they go into particular numbers succeeding each other; there would be no blanks left.

[The Witness withdrew.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of the House; further Examined.

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3958. *Chairman.*] ON a former occasion, when you were asked what led to the issue of the circular of the 19th of April, you stated that there were persons who appeared to you to have been passed over in the appointments, and when you were asked for a particular case, you referred to the case of Ridgeway, and stated that you considered that a very strong case?—Yes.

3959. At Question 1150, you were asked, "Will you state the appointments and promotions that had taken place since you came into office at the Admiralty, and which led you to form that opinion?" and in answer to that question, you stated, "I think the case of Ridgeway was a very strong case." Upon that you were asked further respecting Ridgeway; then I made it a point to ask Captain Richards respecting that case, and it appeared at Question 1950, that Captain Richards had written to you a private letter, calling your attention to the particular facts of that case?—Yes.

3960. In that letter, Captain Richards called your attention to an application made by Ridgeway to Sir Francis Baring, through political influence, and that upon that occasion Sir Francis Baring had directed Captain Richards to communicate to Ridgeway that any repetition of such conduct would certainly be followed by dismissal; all those circumstances were brought to your notice by the letter of the 8th of April 1852, were they not?—Which letter I think was subsequent to the appointment of Ridgeway.

3961. Yes; but Captain Richards stated in his evidence, upon receiving that appointment, "I was a great deal surprised that an appointment should have been made of that kind, which seemed to me to be a violation of their Lordships' own orders." Will you state to the Committee whether or not the appointment of Ridgeway was a violation of the orders of 1847?—I answered the Committee before, that I did not consider the appointment of Ridgeway to be a violation of the orders of 1847, as the arrangement proposed by the superintendent of the dockyard referred to the private trade, not contemplated by those regulations.

3962. Did not the order of 1847 state that the recommendations of the superintendent should go through the Surveyor?—Yes; but there was this difficulty in this case, that when the superintendent did not recommend the person first in the order of seniority and standing at the yard.

3963. Ridgeway's recommendation, as it appeared in the evidence came through Sir Frederick Smith?—It appears in the evidence before this Committee that Sir Frederick Smith named Ridgeway, but it does not appear, neither is it within my knowledge, that Ridgeway applied to Sir Frederick Smith.

3964. Mr. Grant stated at Question 1368, "By whom were those representations made," namely, "that the senior second-class man at the metal mills, namely, Ridgeway, who had been upwards of 39 years in the service, was a proper man to fill this vacancy:" he answered, "From certain parties, friends of mine," that is, certain parties who were friends of Mr. Grant. I then asked him, "What parties?" upon which Mr. Grant answered, "I have no hesitation in saying that Sir

Sir Frederick Smith represented that it was in consequence of the political views held by Ridgeway that the superintendent of the yard proposed that a man from the private trade should be brought in to keep him out of his just promotion. (1370.) Sir Frederick Smith represented to the Admiralty that the superintendent of the yard was acting politically against him? Hardly that; I was informed by Sir Frederick Smith that it had been represented to him that the recommendation was made with the view of passing over Ridgeway, who was the senior man for promotion, and the consequence was, that instead of the recommendation of the superintendent for a man to be selected from the private trade being attended to, Ridgeway, being the senior second-class man of the metal mills, was not actually appointed as a permanent first-class man, but (to insure that an incompetent man should not be put into the place) was appointed, acting on probation." From that, it appears that the representations respecting Ridgeway came from Sir Frederick Smith, and they came through Mr. Grant; is not that the fact?—So far as I can recollect, it is; there did not seem to have been any letter pass; it seems to have been all in conversation.

3965. Still it was that conversation, so far as the Committee can ascertain, that led to the appointment of Ridgeway?—Yes.

3966. That representation contained two views; one was, that Ridgeway was a fit man; and the other was, that Ridgeway, on account of his political views was kept back by the superintendent of the yard?—Yes.

3967. That was a serious charge against Captain Richards, the superintendent of the yard, was it not?—Yes.

3968. Did you upon that inquire whether there was any ground for such a charge against Captain Richards?—I did not follow it further; it was all a matter of conversation from one person to another. I thought it the better way to appoint Ridgeway on probation, and to ascertain then whether he was fit for the place.

3969. You have also stated in evidence that Captain Richards was always considered a strong political partisan?—No, I do not think that was the phrase I used.

3970. I will read you the words; at Question 1378 I asked this question: "Did you think that the superintendent of the dockyard was a party to that political influence; because, if he was not, his opinion should have been taken, should it not? Captain Richards was always looked upon as one of the strongest political partisans in the yard; the notion was that——"?—My notion is, that it ought to have been in the plural, "the yards;" it is not in reference to his own yard.

3971. That qualifies it so far, that, instead of being only the strongest partisan at Chatham, he was the strongest political partisan in all the dockyards?—What I meant then was, that I had an impression that Captain Richards was the strongest partisan of any of the superintendents of the yards.

3972. That being a charge which Captain Richards stated before this Committee, if true, would have been a gross violation and a forfeiture of his pledged word; had you any grounds for making that statement?—The grounds which I had for making that statement were these: that the Chatham Dockyard was the only yard from which I received inquiries, many of them were anonymous, certainly (I believe most of them were anonymous), as to whether the Admiralty would stand by those people who exercised their own votes as they thought proper. When I was in Chatham Dockyard, that question was asked by several people whom I did not know; that may not be of very great value in itself, yet, as comparing it with other yards from which I received no such communications, I arrived at the conclusion I have stated.

3973. That showed you that there was a strong political feeling in the yard, did it not?—Yes; that there were strong political feelings in the yard on both sides, and, of course, the usual division of politics in the dockyard at Chatham as there was in every other yard.

3974. Then, in making that statement to the Committee of this political partisanship, you had nothing to proceed upon, except these anonymous letters and questions that were put to you in the yard, whether the parties might vote as they wished?—I had nothing tangible beyond that.

3975. There was no respectable person at Chatham who stated that Captain Richards was a political partisan?—There were respectable people, but they

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enjoined upon me the strictest confidence; they said that it would make their position extremely disagreeable.

3976. Could a man be a strong political partisan in the dockyard without its being known in the borough?—The Committee will see that the term is entirely relative, "the strongest political partisan in the yards;" it is not comparing Captain Richards with a partisan out of the yard, but with Commodore Eden, or Commodore Seymour, or Admiral Rich, or Admiral Prescott, and others.

3977. Captain Richards was bound, as a man of honour, to take no part whatever in politics in the yard, under the terms of the letter of Sir Francis Baring?—Yes. The Committee will understand that I did not know of the existence of this letter then.

3978. Did you not know that Sir Francis Baring had, when he appointed the superintendents, bound them as men of honour not to take any part in politics in the yards?—No, I was not aware of that. I heard of all those letters for the first time when they were laid before this Committee.

3979. You did not know that Sir Francis Baring had, in making these appointments, bound every man not to take a part in politics?—No, I do not recollect to have heard it till before this Committee. I knew generally that they ought not to take a part in politics.

3980. You did not know that they had been specially bound in a way, that to any officer would be the strongest obligation?—If I had heard of this letter I should not have brought the charge forward so lightly; I should have investigated it; I had a general understanding that it was not desirable that people in such situations should take part in politics; it was no more that I knew then.

3981. Then it was not surprising to you that when Captain Richards perceived that you had, in this committee-room, made such a statement, he should have felt desirous of inviting you to the proof, as he does in his answer to Question 2021?—Not the least, when he read those letters.

3982. When you received that letter from Captain Richards, which laid before you the whole state of the case, and showed you the attempts to obtain promotion by political influence in the yard, it appears that you answered it merely in this way: "Sir, I fully appreciate the motives that dictated your letter of the 8th. The appointment of Ridgeway must now go forward." From that it would appear that the application of Ridgeway had been held back by Captain Richards until he received an answer to that letter to you?—Yes.

3983. Therefore, although the appointment had been formally made, it was still in your power to withhold it upon all those circumstances coming to your knowledge?—Yes.

3984. You did not consider those circumstances sufficient to make you withhold the appointment?—I do not think I ever withheld an appointment when it had once gone forward.

3985. You did not think the circumstances upon this occasion such as to induce you to withhold the appointment?—No, because it was only probationary; it was not for even six months; but it was competent to Captain Richards to report at the end of 14 days, or when he liked.

3986. It was brought to your knowledge that this man had endeavoured to get promotion in the time of Sir Francis Baring?—Yes.

3987. It was also brought to your knowledge that he then made an attempt to get political influence through Sir Frederick Smith?—No, there was no proof that he had interfered at all.

3988. But Mr. Grant has stated that it was from the representations of Sir Frederick Smith. The question is Question 1370: "Sir Frederick Smith represented to the Admiralty that the superintendent of the yard was acting politically against him," and the answer is, "Hardly that. I was informed by Sir Frederick Smith that it had been represented to him that the recommendation was made with the view of passing over Ridgeway, who was the senior man for promotion, and the consequence was, that instead of the recommendation of the superintendent for a man to be selected from the private trade being attended to, Ridgeway, being the senior second-class man of the metal mills, was appointed, not actually appointed as a permanent first-class man, but (to ensure that an incompetent man should not be put into the place) he was appointed, acting on probation"?—Yes; it did not seem to me that Ridgeway had himself instigated Sir Frederick Smith to apply.

3989. Mr. Grant was asked, "By whom were those representations made?"

(to

(to the Secretary of the Admiralty) and the answer was, "From certain parties, friends of mine." He was then asked, "What parties?" and his answer was, "I have no hesitation in saying, that Sir Frederick Smith represented that it was in consequence of the political views held by Ridgeway that the superintendent of the yard proposed that a man from the private trade should be brought in"?—Yes; that is one of the cases, of many, in which every night in the House of Commons my attention was called to particular persons, who had been, for reasons assigned—generally political ones—passed over, not merely in the dockyards, but as to naval appointments.

3990. It was shown to you, when you had this document before you, that this man Ridgeway had improperly applied in the time of Sir Francis Baring?—Yes; he applied then in his own person.

3991. No; but through political influence?—In the case of Sir Francis Baring I understood that the man had himself transgressed the rules.

3992. If you have read the letter, it is, "I further observe, that about three years since he involved himself in much difficulty, by disobeying their Lordships' orders, in attempting to obtain promotion, this very position, through political influence." He having attempted to obtain a situation through political influence in the time of Sir Francis Baring, you say that you were not aware that the application from Sir Frederick Smith might also be considered as an application through political influence in your time?—On his part, Sir Frederick Smith might have known, well acquainted with Chatham as he was, that the place was vacant, and that Ridgeway was next in succession to it; but it did not follow from that that Ridgway had himself applied for the appointment. I certainly did understand, from the letter of Captain Richards, that he did in the time of Sir Francis Baring; but interference is often made for people in their behalf, without their knowledge.

3993. Then do you imagine that Sir Frederick Smith had done this without the knowledge of Ridgeway?—Yes; it did not appear that he had done it with his knowledge, I thought he had done it without; it so frequently occurred that in the House of Commons, as to all naval promotions, that violent applications were made on behalf of people who were utterly unconscious that those applications were being made.

3994. You knew at the time that Sir Frederick Smith was a candidate for Chatham?—Yes; though I could not pronounce it positively.

3995. Did you not know that early in April?—I cannot recollect that I did; but I think it is much more probable that I did than not.

3996. As you desired Ridgeway to be appointed, when you received this information that his appointment was kept back because political influence was used against him, you did not, you say, inquire whether or not Captain Richards was using political influence at that time?—Not at that time; or at any time; the rumour did not assume a sufficiently tangible form.

3997. It so far assumed a form, that it seemed to you to justify the appointment of Ridgeway?—The circumstance of Ridgeway's standing next was one reason, and being appointed on probation, on the other hand, was another reason, to justify the appointment; it was very soon after I came into office, and it was impossible for me to begin an inquiry then.

3998. You stated, that it not only justified the appointment, but that that was one of the strong cases which you thought justified you in issuing the circular of the 19th of April, and preventing the appointments passing through the Surveyor's office?—It was represented to me as a strong case then.

3999. You being new to office, you, somewhat hastily, perhaps, thought it was a strong case?—Yes; if I had heard of those letters from Sir Francis Baring to Captain Richards at the time, I should not have taken the course that I did; I should either have instituted an inquiry, or else have rejected Ridgeway's application. I may be permitted to correct an inaccuracy into which Captain Richards has fallen in his own evidence; it is in reference to this particular case; at Question 2189, asked by the Honourable Member for Marylebone, "When did you first see Mr. Stafford? I first met him in Sheerness dockyard, I think in March; I will not be positive as to the date; I was attending duty at a court-martial, and I met Mr. Stafford in company with Captain Hope, and Captain Hope introduced me to him; I cannot fix the time; it was decidedly before the correspondence in April, and I should rather be disposed to put it in March." He said it was decidedly before the correspondence in April, but the

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last paragraph of that letter states, "I have much to regret in not having the honour of being personally known to you, and also that circumstances prevent me from making this communication personally rather than by letter." Now it will be obvious to the Committee that the introduction by Captain Hope could not have been before this letter; and the bearing of that inadvertency of Captain Richards in this case is this, that the real truth was, I met Captain Richards at Sheerness on the 1st of May; I find that I had done so by a journal of my own, and I had verified that date by reference to the court-martial which was held at Sheerness at that date, which Captain Richards mentioned he was just attending. The kindness of the First Lord of the Admiralty has permitted me to have access to several of those documents; I correct this mistake to show that Captain Richards and I were on very friendly terms, and that I might have expected at that interview that he would have mentioned the case of Ridgeway to me, which he never did.

4000. But that was long after?—Yes, that was long after.

4001. He gives his reason at Question 1953; he says, "I beg to be allowed to say, that having made two such representations as I had made, and having brought under Mr. Stafford's notice the opinion of Sir Francis Baring of the man's misconduct in disobeying the orders of the Board, and it was clear that he must have disobeyed those orders a second time, otherwise his wish for an appointment was not likely to come under Mr. Stafford's notice, I was led to think that no further representations of mine would have any effect; and you will find that I had strong proof, after that, that my official representations were just as much regarded as my private ones"?—There had been no correspondence between Captain Richards and myself, up to the date of the 1st of May, except that; the conclusion of the correspondence was, that he, if the man was incompetent, was requested to report.

4002. Had there been no further submissions?—I think none; the next case was the case of Groves, later in the month; therefore, it was in the interval between those two cases.

4003. Respecting the circular of the 19th of April, will you state to the Committee by whose advice you issued that circular?—I was inquiring what could be done to remedy this state of things.

4004. What state of things?—The state of things which I described in my first evidence, in which, whether rightly or wrongly, I was informed that political influence was brought very much to bear against the Government to which I belonged; I did not consult any of the Lords of the Admiralty; I think I stated that before.

4005. Did you consult any member of the Government?—To the best of my remembrance, not; no member of the Government would be sufficiently aware of the technicality of the question, so as to be able to understand it; I could not have consulted any member of the Government.

4006. You did not consult any other member of the Government, and you did not consult any one at the Admiralty?—I do not know whether the Committee will consider it a consultation, my mentioning it to the First Lord in the manner in which his Grace has described; it is difficult to say whether that mentioning of it assumed the form of an absolute consultation or not; the conversations were strictly confidential; and were in snatches rather than in any continuous course.

4007. Are the Committee to understand that it was entirely from your own motion, wishing to alter the system of promotions, that you desired to issue the circular of the 19th of April?—To alter the system of promotions; as for the way of doing it, of course I consulted people who told me, without giving any opinion one way or the other as to its propriety, and if I had recommended the thing upon principle, what the machinery was; that was done in perfect confidence. I could not give up those names; I take the whole responsibility of it upon myself, except that which is shared by the cognisance of the First Lord.

4008. Did you see the private correspondence that took place later in April, between Captain Pelham and Captain Richards?—Never.

4009. It was never brought to your knowledge?—No.

4010. Did not the First Lord after his interview with Captain Richards, which was consequent upon this letter, bring this subject again to your notice?—He mentioned that Captain Richards had been with him, and he told me very much according to his Grace's evidence what had passed, and the conclusion he had

come

come to; he said that it would be very satisfactory to him that there should be the most perfect openness of communication between himself and the superintendents of the yards; that seemed to be one of the strongest wishes his Grace had.

4011. Do you recollect whether his Grace told you that he had recommended Captain Richards in all future cases to come to him himself, or to go to Admiral Hyde Parker?—I do not recollect the phrase, "or go to Admiral Hyde Parker;" I recollect him saying that he requested Captain Richards to come to him; I never knew during the time that I was in office, the Duke of Northumberland to refuse an interview to any single person; and it used to be a matter of astonishment to me how his Grace could see the number of people that used to call on him.

4012. Did his Grace then tell you that he concurred with Captain Richards as to his view upon the subject of dockyard promotions?—I do not recollect that the conversation went beyond Ridgeway in particular.

4013. You do not remember whether or not he desired you to give every attention to the recommendations of the superintendents?—No, I do not remember that he said that; he alluded to them generally.

4014. As to the case of Groves, on the 10th of May 1852 a letter was written to you respecting Groves by Captain Richards, I think?—Yes.

4015. It is referred to at Question 2068; there again the superintendent states that William Groves not being properly qualified, "I respectfully submit my opinion, that his being placed on the present vacancy could not fail to operate prejudicially to the public service." That was the conclusion of that letter?—Yes.

4016. That letter having been written on the 24th of May 1852, you wrote a letter to Captain Richards, expressing surprise that he had put a man into the vacancy whom he had brought from the private trade?—Yes. Before the Committee go further, may I observe that I hope they have seen the minute upon which this letter was founded; I do not give any opinion as to the letter now, except that I trust the Committee see that its phraseology was in some degree altered by the person who wrote it; the original minute contained no wording about laying before the Board. I will put in the original minute. Captain Richards attaches more importance to the words, "Laid before the Board," or "Laid before their Lordships," than they deserve. Those words I do not think appear in the minute; it is a mere stereotyped form; but to those not acquainted with the detail of the working of the Admiralty it might have appeared of exaggerated importance.

4017. It would appear to Captain Richards to be a rebuke from the Board, would it not?—Everything coming from the Secretary must appear to come from the Board.

4018. When Captain Richards received that letter, it would appear to him to be a rebuke from the Board, would it not?—It would appear to be an expression of surprise, certainly.

4019. An expression of surprise is at least a mild form of rebuke, is it not?—Yes, I think it is.

4020. You wrote that letter of the 24th without having laid his original letter before any of the Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes; I thought it was entirely in my province, and I think so still.

4021. Without having consulted any of the Lords of the Admiralty, you proceeded to this expression of surprise?—Yes.

4022. Were you aware at that time, namely, in October 1851, that authority had been given to Captain Richards to select a suitable person for the vacancy in question from the private trade?—I knew that; but I thought then, and I think now, that Captain Richards, before he appointed this man, which he did on the 19th, ought to have written that very day or the day after, to inquire the Board's wishes concerning it.

4023. But the letter from the Admiralty, dated the 6th of October 1851, was this; "I am to acquaint you that it appears to my Lords that such a step will be very beneficial to the public service, and they authorise you to take such measures as may be necessary for selecting a suitable person for the vacancy in question." That was giving to Captain Richards authority to select a person, was it not?—I think that authority was suspended when this correspondence with regard to Groves began.

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4024. Had the authority been suspended; where are the words which show that the Lords of the Admiralty desire him not proceed in any way to fill up the vacancy?—No; if he had proceeded to appoint that man, when positively forbidden to do so, the wording of that letter would have been something more than an expression of surprise.

4025. What was there to justify an expression of surprise that a man had executed an order of their Lordships, which he received in October?—The question was raised as to Groves in this correspondence; he was the next in the yard, and he was reported to be the best who had performed the work. The officers of the yard had, "contrary to their expectations, failed in getting a good forgeman for the present rate of pay, and none that have offered have been so good workmen as Groves, who is likewise a young and improving man." It is stated also, "the duty having been done by William Groves as the man best calculated of those in the smithery for its performance." I thought then, and still think, that if Captain Richards had not thought that we had suspended the question of private trade, after so many months of difficulty, in short impossibility, in obtaining a man from the private trade, he drew a very wrong inference from our letter; an inference that very much surprised me.

4026. On the 7th of May a letter was written to Captain Richards to report upon Groves, and to that letter Captain Richards answered, that it was undesirable to appoint Groves; and he then, acting under the orders which he had received in October preceding, proceeded to obtain a man from the private trade?—I do not think that your Lordship has stated all the correspondence; there were other letters.

4027. I have stated his position as to the Admiralty, and that position was this: William Groves had been reported by Captain Richards as an undesirable person to be promoted?—On the assumption that some one could be found in the private trade; that was in the preceding year.

4028. Not only that, but he stated two things; "I quite concur in the opinion expressed by the officers on the preference to be given to an expert forgeman from private trade." That was one ground; but he said further, "On these grounds, and believing William Groves not properly qualified, I respectfully submit my opinion that his being placed in the present vacancy could not fail to operate prejudicially to the public service"?—That is in September 1851.

4029. That letter is dated the 17th of September 1851, forwarded at the same time with the other letters?—Yes; on the 8th of May he states, "In reference to your directions of the 7th instant, to report if William Groves is qualified to fill the vacancy for smith's forgeman, we beg to state that, if sufficiently high wages could be allowed, we should, for the reasons given in our letter of the 17th of September 1851, prefer to have an expert forgeman entered from private trade, who could instruct and improve our people. But we have, contrary to our expectations, failed in getting a good forgeman for the present rate of pay; and none that have offered have been so good workmen as Groves, who is likewise a young and improving man;" that is from the officers, which is enclosed by Captain Richards.

4030. It was not Captain Richards' letter, but a letter of the officers?—Yes, but sent by Captain Richards.

4031. Did he say that he recommended Groves?—No, he never said that, neither did I want him to say that; my surprise was not that he had not recommended Groves, but that while this communication was going on with reference to Groves, who, as he knew, was the best man calculated of those in the smithery to perform the duty, to which Fowler was appointed, that before he appointed Fowler he did not communicate with the Admiralty again. It seems to me that the correspondence, judging in my own case, at least, suspended the appointment from the private trade, which had been seven months open.

4032. Suspended it by implication?—Yes, I think so.

4033. There is the case of Atkinson, at Question 2090, appointed without the recommendation of any officer in the yard?—I could not find Atkinson's papers at the Admiralty; his appointment is dated the 18th of August; I was absent then in the Mediterranean, and I suppose he must have been entered. I am sorry the Committee did not examine Captain Hamilton upon that; it seems that Captain Richards treated him as a newly entered man, subject to probation.

4034. He was promoted without the recommendation of any officer in the yard?—

yard?—It appears that he was a hammer-man, a single fireman, and must be treated as a first entry.

4035. Captain Richards stated this: "Atkinson's name was never introduced, and no one in the yard had the slightest idea that Atkinson could be ever brought forward for promotion; without any question asked, in August I received the order for his promotion"?—There was a precedent for that in the case of a man named West, appointed single fireman at Chatham, in July 1847; Captain Hamilton treated it as a first entry, and so it seems that Captain Richards did.

4036. When you sent down the order for his promotion, did you intend it as a first entry, or as a promotion?—I did not do it; it was Captain Hamilton.

4037. You knew nothing whatever of it?—No, I must of course be responsible for it; but that is the real state of the case; I do not think it would be quite fair to the Committee if I passed over this. I saw it on the 4th of October 1852, when I had come back; therefore I must be personally responsible for it, at all events. At the bottom of the 16th page the Committee will see that I was in the Mediterranean on the 18th of August; I had come back by the 4th of October; I came back at the end of September, and then came the letter of the 4th of October: "To the Captain Superintendent, Chatham Dockyard.—With reference to your letter of the 2nd instant, No. 148, and its enclosure, respecting Edward Atkinson, who is on probation for advancement to single fireman; as this man is reported to be a diligent and improving man, the extended probationary period is to be allowed him." That is, the period from August to November 1851.

4038. That is signed not by you, but by Mr. Hay?—It would be the same thing; if I went away early in the afternoon, the chief clerk would sign it.

4039. It was done with your approbation?—Yes.

4040. It was only continuing the man on probation, who had been appointed previously?—Yes.

4041. That was a different thing from promoting a man without any recommendation from the officers in the yard; therefore if you were only aware of what was done in continuing him when he had been promoted, of course your responsibility is very different from the responsibility that would have attached to you if you had promoted him without any recommendation from the officers in the yard?—I certainly did not do it, or know of its being done, because I was in the Mediterranean; when I came back I found it was done, and I thought it fair to give the man the next turn, which I understood to be three months.

4042. There is the case of George Rule, at Question 2101?—He was a yard labourer, and was promoted to be a workman at the metal mills; but in several of those cases which I have gone over, I promoted them, omitting the names of the persons whom Captain Richards had brought forward, on the full impression which I had at that time, and which I have now, that, according to the circular of 1847, those cases were all first entries. My notion of the rule of 1847 is, that the lowest class in the dockyard of all the different grades is to be considered as a first entry; take the case at Devonport of the sawyers, as distinct from the labourers; I consider that the third-class sawyer is a first entry; I consider the labourer is a first entry, and I consider the sixth class at the metal mills also a first entry, and the established riggers first entries also. There is on the part of every yard an inclination, which the Committee will understand is perfectly natural, not as regards the question of Whig *versus* Tory, or one superintendent against one Secretary, but a perpetual inclination on the part of every yard to get as much of the patronage as it can to itself; it is a war, although of a mild character, always existing between the centre at Whitehall and the different yards; sometimes it may be waged by a superintendent, and at other times it may be waged on the part of the master shipwrights. The result of the whole is, that if the Admiralty did not take care, the whole of the patronage would entirely depart from them.

4043. Having thus stated the war of jealousy existing between the different dockyards, and this naturally affecting the representations sent up from those dockyards, does not it seem to you to show that it would be desirable to have upon those submissions the report of the Surveyor, who would not be prejudiced as to any particular yard?—If it was a question of first entries, as he stated that he never interfered with first entries, it would not affect the question at all.

4044. Are you not first assuming that the rise of a labourer to a sawyer is a first entry?—Yes.

4045. But according to the system that had been in practice in the yards, so far as

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as the Committee can ascertain from the superintendents of the yards, they looked upon those cases as cases of promotion?—I do not think the case of a sawyer; Commodore Seymour first began, by saying that they were promotions, but in answer to questions put by your Lordship he was obliged to confess that they were first entries.

4046. He stated that for the good of the service it was most desirable, when a person was once in the yard, that he should look to his conduct to entitle him to promotion in that yard, did he not?—Yes.

4047. In the circular of 1847, it is also stated that it is their Lordships' determination, that when a person is once there, whether he has come in as an apprentice, or by the order of the Board, when once there, he should look to himself alone for promotion, in whatever way he has come in; that was the spirit of the order of 1847?—Yes; I read it, in whatever character they first come in; and applying it to the case of two men, A. and B., one of whom enters the dockyard as a labourer, and learns the trade of a sawyer at the public expense, and another who learns the trade of a sawyer at his own expense, it would be obviously unjust that the man who has learnt the trade inside should, by the promotion of the man from labourer to a sawyer, stand in the way of the man who learnt it at his own expense. I do not consider that promotion can go on in the terms in which Captain Richards seems to understand it; I do not understand it so as to promotion from one trade to another; but I think that whenever anybody was in the lowest grade of any particular calling in the yard then all promotions should be direct by his officers, and that he should come under the regulations of 1847. When a man applied to be made a third-class sawyer, or in the metal mills, I did not inquire whether he was in the yard or not. Very often I may have appointed people, believing that I exercised a right which no one disputed, over the first entries, even if a man was in the yard in another capacity.

4048. You formed a different opinion regarding the application of the circular of 1847 from what the superintendents of the dockyard did, as far as Captain Richards and Commodore Seymour are concerned?—I do not think so, as far as Commodore Seymour was concerned; I do not think his notions were adverse to it.

4049. But as far as Captain Richards was concerned, you formed a different opinion from him as to the promotions?—I seemed to have done so, as he mentions those cases; I went on without knowing it, from his not communicating to me.

4050. As he had called your attention to the matter in a very strong though a very proper letter, a private letter, which he wrote upon the very first case, did you not think it desirable to consult other superintendents upon the subject of promotions in the yards?—No; I thought it perfectly competent to him to name those men; there was no harm in his naming those men; no harm in his naming William Bacon; though there was not the least necessity for me to adopt it, he did nothing wrong in naming him.

4051. He was at liberty to name William Bacon, and you were at liberty to adopt George Rule, whose name was not mentioned?—Yes, on the first entrance.

4052. Would it not be a great discouragement to Bacon and others, who for their industry in the yard would have no reward?—I do not know how far Captain Richards had promised him or led him to hope.

4053. Did you not know that the labourers were to rise by merit alone?—They do rise in their own classes by merit alone; as Commodore Seymour said, a labourer rose to store labourer.

4054. The labourers also rose to be sawyers, according to Commodore Seymour's evidence?—Which would be contradicted by this; because they can rise to sixth-class metal mills here.

4055. Then Commodore Seymour's evidence, though not correct as to Chatham, must be correct as to Devonport?—There is not the least difficulty in turning a labourer into a sawyer, or into sixth-class metal mills; it seemed to me to be the privilege of the Admiralty, and not in the power of the superintendent, as I considered them to be new entries.

4056. What encouragement was there to a labourer that he would rise to the post of sawyer or the post of labourer in the storehouses, if they were to be made first entries?—The labourers in the storehouses were never first entries; always promotions.

4057. The sawyer you considered to be a first entry, and that it was not open to a man to rise?—Open to a man to rise after a first entry.

4058. What

4058. What encouragement had the men to rise in the yard by their industry as labourers, if the post of sawyers was filled by other men?—It was a question as to the efficacy of the regulations of 1847, whether they were wise or not; I only state that I thought I acted in the belief that I was carrying out their spirit.

4059. The wisdom of the circular of 1847 would depend very much upon the interpretation put upon its meaning; Commodore Seymour seems to have considered that the workmen who were good labourers had a fair right to look forward to promotion, and becoming sawyers?—Yes.

4060. Your interpretation is, as I understand, that they had no such right?—Yes, that higher claims should be taken into consideration; for under the circular of 1849, the Admiralty could admit any man in the third class. Commodore Seymour gave an instance in the case of an organist; he had nominated a man to be organist, who had been performing the duty of organist; the Admiralty rejected that nomination, and put in a stranger. Commodore Seymour said at first that he thought it contrary to the regulations of 1847, but he then drew back, and said that as it was a new entry, he considered it was competent to the Admiralty to send down anybody they pleased; if the Committee substitute playing on the organ for sawing, I think the analogy is perfect.

4061. Playing on the organ would hardly affect the economy of the labourers in the dockyards?—No; but it would illustrate the principle.

4062. The great principle of the circular of 1847 applies, does it not, to the system of economy and alacrity of the labourers in the yards; that was the object of the circular, was it not?—Yes, and it combined also patronage on the part of the Admiralty; it did not lose sight of that.

4063. It gives the Admiralty the first entries?—Yes.

4064. You stated, when you came to the Admiralty that the first difficulty you had was to inquire into your patronage, and that you were anxious about it?—Yes.

4065. As that was one of your first difficulties, did you not clearly ascertain which were first entries, and which were not?—I had the impression all through, and I have it now, that the lowest class of all the classes was a first entry.

4066. As you have stated that you had to inquire so much as to your patronage, did you not ascertain from experienced men what had been and what was the course with regard to promotions and entries?—These questions were never raised then. I hear now of George Rule, of Bacon, and of the other persons, for the first time; I heard of the Devonport cases for the first time before this Committee; and as I never had any letter from Commodore Seymour on the subject, I did not in the least know that he considered I had infringed those rules.

4067. You stated, did you not, that the first thing you did upon coming to the Admiralty was to inquire exactly into the limits of your patronage?—I have stated what I thought the limits of that patronage were.

4068. When you made that inquiry, did you not ascertain from any one competent to give you information, what had been the custom as to the first entries, as your whole patronage depended upon that?—I made the best inquiries that I could; I do not know that I asked Admiral Hyde Parker or Admiral Hornby; it never occurred to me to raise a doubt about it, any more than that I was exercising an unfair administration of patronage when I chose one of two names sent up to me.

4069. You stated, in answer to Question 1169, that the first thing you did upon coming to the Admiralty, was to inquire exactly into the limits of your patronage; as you were pressed upon by your political friends on the one hand, and limited by the circular of 1847, and by the practice of the Admiralty on the other, did you not endeavour to ascertain exactly from any authorities what was within your patronage?—The authorities on the subject of the dockyard promotions would be rather those who had been long at the Admiralty than the superintendents of the dockyards; the correspondence with the superintendents of the dockyards is to the "Lords of the Admiralty," and the answers to the superintendents from the "Lords of the Admiralty;" therefore the superintendents have no particular knowledge of the departmental arrangements at Whitehall; I consulted those who had been in the office some time at Whitehall, asking them what the patronage was; and the answer was, under Sir Henry Ward's Regulations, the first entries.

Mercurii, 11° *die Maii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Lord Hotham.	Sir H. F. Davie.
Mr. Beckett.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

The Right Hon. *Benjamin Disraeli*, a Member of the House; Examined.

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4070. *Chairman.*] IT has been stated by Sir Baldwin Walker, that, in a conversation which he had with Mr. Stafford, Mr. Stafford stated to him, that it was no use blinking the question, he was so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he could not help himself. The Committee wish to know whether you did express to Mr. Stafford any opinion regarding his taking the management of the promotions in the dockyards for political purposes?—I never had any conversation with Mr. Stafford, or with any person who held office under the late Government, with respect to such subjects.

4071. Are the Committee to understand that you did not give him any opinion one way or the other as to the patronage of the dockyards?—Mr. Stafford never consulted me on such a subject, nor did any one under the late Administration; they are subjects that did not fall under my department, and it would not have entered into my head that anybody should have spoken to me on such subjects.

4072. Mr. *Beckett.*] In the evidence given by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, he states, that Mr. Stafford told him, "that he felt a difficulty in doing his duty when called upon by the Government or the House of Commons to explain anything, to both of which he was responsible; he had not the means of answering; the whole of the appointments and patronage being in the Surveyor's office. He told me also, that the patronage of the Admiralty was used against the Government; and the last time he spoke of it he said, that he felt he had not the power of doing his duty, and could not retain his office under those circumstances." Do you recollect at all Mr. Stafford making a complaint to you as a Member of the Government under those circumstances?—If the Committee wish it, I would state to them what, from my own knowledge of the facts, and from my own observation of the circumstances which have been generally before the Committee, I believe to be the real cause of these misunderstandings. When the late Government was formed, the Duke of Northumberland, from a high sense of public duty, and from a great love of the profession of which he is a member, was anxious that the Board of Admiralty should be formed as free as possible from what are called political influences. No obstacle whatever was made to the wishes of his Grace, and the Board of Admiralty was formed by his Grace of very distinguished naval officers, with the sole object of establishing the efficient administration of that great branch; and the consequence was, I have no hesitation in saying, that there was not that complete understanding between the Board of Admiralty and the House of Commons which had hitherto prevailed, and which, I have no doubt, prevails, with the present Board of Admiralty, and which has always before the Administration of Lord Derby prevailed; for example, the present Board of Admiralty is represented in the House of Commons not merely by the Secretary but by the First Lord, by a distinguished naval officer, who is also a Lord, and also by a lay Lord; four members; therefore, between the present Board of Admiralty and the present House of Commons there would be naturally a perfect understanding. When the Board was formed under the administration of Lord Derby, it was formed of distinguished naval officers, but there was only one Member of the House of Commons who was a Lord of the Admiralty, and that Member, though a most honourable and able gentleman, was himself a naval officer of no great rank; and when he took his place at the Board, he took his place in the presence of his superior officers, superior in point of professional reputation and rank, and, therefore, was necessarily much influenced by them.

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Upon Mr. Stafford, therefore, devolved entirely the representation of the feeling of the House of Commons. He was the only civilian, and he entered office, therefore, not only without experience, but he entered under circumstances of very peculiar difficulty. The consequence of this was, that from the very first there was not that sympathy between the late Board of Admiralty and the House of Commons which is necessary in our Parliamentary Government; and I have no hesitation, from my position as the then leader of the House of Commons, in giving it as my opinion, that Mr. Stafford was placed in the position of mainly considering the House of Commons without any one to support him. The Board of Admiralty, formed of most able and efficient men, looked only to what they called the Service. It was not with respect to these questions of patronage, but it was at first, at least, with regard to matters of another kind; for instance, I felt it my duty to speak to the Secretary of the Admiralty upon questions of public expenditure; and if the Secretary of the Admiralty did his duty, and obeyed my instructions, and made those representations which the House of Commons upon all questions of public expenditure require, and which the Minister who leads the House of Commons must fairly represent, no doubt those appeals were listened to with jealousy and suspicion, and there was not that harmony which ought to exist between a branch of the Administration and the House of Commons, and which can only exist when a considerable number of the members of that branch are Members of the House of Commons.

4073. *Chairman.*] You stated, did you not, that there was a want of understanding between the Board of Admiralty and the House of Commons?—Yes; I mean to say that the Board of Admiralty looked merely to the efficiency of the Service, and they thought that their only duty was to consider the efficiency of the Service; but they did not understand sufficiently, I think, the spirit of our Parliamentary Government, and that in conducting their affairs they must consider the temper of the House of Commons; that temper is represented now, and has been represented before, by several Members of the House of Commons, also members of the Board. I will take a case. The Secretary of the Admiralty represented to me, as it was his duty to do, that he thought the expenditure was exceeding the estimate for the year, and it was my duty, as guardian of the public purse, of course to attend immediately to that; and I ordered, I think, that a weekly account should be sent to the Treasury of the expenditure. It was my duty of course to do that. I understood at the time that this was looked on as rather an unwarrantable interference with the administration of the Admiralty; but your Lordship and the Committee must know that these are things which are necessary to be done and to be clearly understood. I mention this as an illustration.

4074. You, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and responsible for expenditure, naturally wished to have a control over the public expenditure of the Admiralty, for fear it should exceed their Estimates?—Yes; I only mention that; I do not lay any great stress upon it; I mention it merely as an illustration. Such an application of the Chancellor of the Exchequer under ordinary circumstances would not be viewed with any jealousy, if a majority of the members of the Board of Admiralty were Members of the House of Commons; it would perhaps not even be necessary; but in the preparation of the Estimates, if it was represented, I will say, to Admiral Hyde Parker, that great economy was required, or retrenchment, then it was considered to be an expression of opinion from a body which ought not to express an opinion upon such subjects; it was looked upon as an undue interference by the House of Commons. Mr. Stafford was placed under circumstances of great difficulty, and he communicated this to me; my advice to him was to conciliate as much as possible, to do his duty, and not to bring forward any propositions in the Board for which they might not be prepared; to speak to the members of it privately first, and in fact to make them clearly understand what the nature of our Parliamentary Government was, which probably no person can understand who is not a Member of the House of Commons.

4075. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] When Mr. Stafford stated his difficulties to you, it was with regard to those professional matters, but not with reference to any difficulties arising from the pressure put upon him with regard to his patronage?—No; he would not speak upon such small matters as these; he would speak generally as to the extreme difficulties which he found in carrying on his office; he would naturally come to me for support and counsel. These conversations took place in the House of Commons. I had a great deal to do at that time. I had no formal interviews with Mr. Stafford. After the questions were asked

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at half-past four, behind the Speaker's chair, if he wished to consult me, he did consult me; generally speaking, of course the considerations placed before me were not matters much in detail, and my advice was general; it was to conciliate as much as possible. I looked at the novelty of the position, and I thought that time would settle all those things; I always found on the part of Mr. Stafford an extreme desire to follow the general advice which I gave him.

4076. You will observe that Mr. Stafford has stated that he was very much pressed on the subject of dockyard patronage, and that in conversation with Sir Baldwin Walker, he thinks he said that "Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not, more than any other Government, permit all the patronage to be in the hands of their political opponents"?—I thought I had answered that question; I wish to repeat it, if there should be any mistake, I never pressed Mr. Stafford, or any Member of the late Administration, on the subject of his patronage, or with the view of influencing him to exercise that patronage for the purposes of elections, or anything else; such a subject never could occur to me, nor do I think that it could occur to any person in my position, as it did not fall under my consideration in any way; those are subjects which devolve upon other persons to consider; Mr. Stafford expressed to me from the first the very great difficulties he had to contend with, from what I should say was a sort of spirit of jealousy and suspicion, arising from the cause that I have expressed, but which appeared to me to wear off.

4077. *Chairman.*] Did Mr. Stafford represent to you that his difficulties were increased by the preceding Government having filled up all the appointments, and given all promotions to their own partisans?—No; Mr. Stafford never went into any details of that kind. Mr. Stafford, I think it right to state, did mention to me that he was placed in a position of difficulty with the Surveyor-general; and I gave him some general advice, but I did not go into any details whatever. Looking upon the Surveyor-general as a permanent civil servant of the Crown, my advice was to treat the permanent civil servants of the Crown in a spirit not only of conciliation, but of implicit confidence. I was influenced myself by my own experience. When I went to the Treasury, the principal permanent civil servants of the Crown were all men of even extreme liberal opinions; they had been appointed by the previous Government, and, of course, they were, in their opinions, hostile to our Government; but I treated them with implicit confidence, and they served me with the greatest zeal and fidelity, I may say, even with devotion. I recommended Mr. Stafford, with regard to the Surveyor-general, to treat him in the same way; but we did not go into details as to the causes of their misunderstanding; I gave him that general advice, and Mr. Stafford told me that he should act upon it, and I believe he did act upon it. That is the only personal instance that ever was brought before me. What I have mentioned occurred at an early period in the formation of the Government. Some time after that, he consulted me in the House of Commons, behind the Speaker's chair, upon the letter which Sir Baldwin Walker wrote to the Duke of Northumberland. I do not know whether he showed me the letter or a copy; I think not a copy; I know that the letter was brought before me there in a hurried way, as a proof that he had not succeeded in establishing that good understanding which I had told him the course I had recommended would probably establish. When I read that letter, I was annoyed, and I remember saying (I was not then familiar with the office or the person of Sir Baldwin Walker), "If this is to be the way in which our overtures are accepted, I think he had better resign." Upon which I distinctly remember Mr. Stafford saying, "That is out of the question; the Duke of Northumberland has made up his mind to consider this as a strictly confidential communication; I suppose I must bear it, and do what I can to make things agreeable." I then said, "If you have made up your mind that Sir Baldwin Walker should not resign, rely upon it you had better see him and have some frank conversation with him, and make him understand that you wish to work cordially with him; and do not remain with any hostile feeling on either side." Mr. Stafford told me he should act upon my advice. That must have been in the beginning of May, and I never heard of the subject again. Late in the autumn, Mr. Stafford had to call upon me in Downing-street; I believe the only time he ever paid me an official visit, as to the Estimates; and I said, "By-the-bye, how are you going on at your office?" and he said, "Nothing can go on better; we have a perfectly good understanding as to everything; and as to Sir Baldwin Walker himself, it is impossible

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impossible to work better than we do." That was the end of the affair with me; therefore, I was perfectly astonished to hear of this misunderstanding.

4078. When you came into office, you came into an office that had been held for a long time by opposing parties, and therefore the subordinates in office had been generally put in by the party who differed from you in politics; but you have given the Committee your opinion that, generally speaking, the persons holding subordinate offices, though belonging to the opposing party, acted very fairly and cordially with the Government?—I can only speak of my own office; as to the Treasury, the permanent civil officers did their duty cordially and completely, and they would do their duty cordially and completely to-morrow if there were a change of Government; that is my decided opinion, which I shall always express; I cannot speak of any other office, except of the Treasury.

4079. Having business to transact with so many offices as Chancellor of the Exchequer, you must have heard if there had been any difficulty generally in any office on account of a difference of opinion between the heads of the office and the permanent servants?—I can speak certainly from my personal experience, and I can say that I believe that the administration of affairs was carried on with complete cordiality and good faith by every office brought in relation to me, with the exception of the Admiralty. I am not wishing to make any imputation upon the good faith of any individual, but I have attempted to explain to the Committee what I believed to have been the original cause of the misunderstanding between the Parliamentary department of the Admiralty, and the merely administrative part of the Admiralty; every other office was sufficiently and properly represented in the House of Commons, so that in every other branch of the Administration the general feeling of the House of Commons was appreciated; but by the Admiralty, certainly at first the House of Commons was, to use a common expression, ignored, and they viewed the authority and influence of the House of Commons no doubt with jealousy. The Board consisted in many instances of men of the highest professional reputation, but who were not sufficiently acquainted with the nature and practice of our Parliamentary Government.

4080. Was there any other likelihood of misunderstanding arising, except in regard to expenditure; because, as I understand, the Board consisted of distinguished naval officers, who looked at the efficiency of the service, and the only difficulty as it appears to me, that could have arisen, would have been their anxiety for the service leading them to exceed the Estimates; whereas the House of Commons would control the Estimates with a severe hand, without, perhaps, looking to the requirements of the Admiralty for the year?—Yes.

4081. Was there any other cause of misunderstanding that could arise between the House of Commons and the Board of Admiralty?—There would be no other cause of misunderstanding between the House of Commons and the Board of Admiralty, so far as the Government was concerned; but of course I can easily understand that the various members supporting the Government, looking to the fair disposition of the patronage which has been referred to by one of the honourable Members, may have pressed, and, I dare say, did press Mr. Stafford, and that he found he was in a position in which he could not fairly satisfy their wishes. That may have been the cause of small misunderstandings between himself and individuals. I mean to say that, if there were not a cordial understanding between Mr. Stafford, representing the House of Commons, and Admiral Parker, for instance, on matters of great public administration, comparatively subordinate officers, like the Surveyor of the Navy, would take their tone from the Board, and view other matters in the same spirit of suspicion and capriciousness. This would lead to misunderstandings. There is no doubt, as every member of this Committee must know, that the party who supports the Government, whether they are in the House of Commons or out of it, naturally look to what is called a fair distribution of the patronage; and, I dare say, that may have led under such circumstances to misunderstanding. I only wish it to be understood that, so far as I was concerned, those were questions that were not brought under my consideration in any way; therefore it was quite impossible that I could have urged Mr. Stafford to any conduct on those subjects; and I should have been perfectly astonished if any member of the Administration had spoken to me on them.

4082. Would it not rather seem that that difficulty had been lightened, because the Committee have heard from the Duke of Northumberland that he had given up the whole of the patronage to Mr. Stafford?—Yes.

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4083. Therefore, all first entries in the dockyards, which is an unusual thing, had been given up to the Secretary of the Admiralty by the First Lord?—Yes.

4084. Would it not rather relieve and assist him in his dealings with the House of Commons than increase his difficulties?—Probably; those were matters never brought under my consideration in any way; I had nothing to do with those subjects.

4085. You have never in any way been brought to consider the question as to appointments and promotions either in the navy or in the dockyards?—Not in any way whatever.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of the House; further Examined.

A. Stafford, Esq. M.P.

4086. *Chairman.*] YOU have heard the evidence given to this Committee by Mr. Disraeli?—Yes.

4087. From that evidence, it appears that you had expressed to Mr. Disraeli that there was not that perfect harmony in the administration of the Admiralty, which might have been wished for?—Yes. I then told him that my difficulties were very great, as being the sole civilian at the Board, with the exception of one only, being a Member of the House of Commons.

4088. Can you state to the Committee what you felt to be your difficulties, being the only civilian at the Board?—The difficulty was, as stated by Mr. Disraeli, that whenever I suggested a reference to the estimates for the current year, or any estimate, I was always met with the answer, "It is for the good of the service; the House must vote the money; we cannot sit here to have an impaired service or an inefficient fleet;" and when I represented that, in a representative Government, considerations such as these were always qualified by political circumstances, I felt that I was never understood, and, sometimes, that what I remarked was very distasteful.

4089. You were in fear that the estimates would be exceeded?—Yes.

4090. Do you mean to say that the Board of Admiralty would issue orders for expenditure, without having a due regard to the estimates that had been voted for the service?—Before the Board several questions of finance came on, insignificant in themselves, but which I perceived would be made use of as precedents for an enormous expenditure. It was on those small and comparatively minute circumstances, I felt it my duty sometimes to protest and warn the Board that there would be great difficulty; in conceding additional pay, for instance, 6*d.* or 1*s.* a day would not be much to a particular class; but when turned into a precedent, it could not be met by the estimates of the current year.

4091. An increase of 6 *d.* in the pay of any class of men might be a very large item; it was clear that this could not be met except in a future estimate, with the sanction of the House of Commons?—No, that did not follow; there would be always a margin allowed in the vote.

4092. Not a margin that would allow for any large expenditure?—No; but when once conceded to one particular person, or one particular class, in this year, it would involve either an apparent injustice, and thereby increase the difficulties in managing the navy, or else an enormous expenditure in the next year.

4093. For the purpose of controlling the expenditure and the amount of the estimates, as the Committee understand, it was desired that all the appointments in the dockyards, the promotions, and filling-up of vacancies, should be brought specially under the notice of the Surveyor of the Navy; and that he might also assist in controlling the weekly and monthly expenditure?—No; I did not take that to be so. I considered myself quite able to control the expenditure, with the assistance of the Superintendents and the Accountant-general.

4094. Had not a certain duty, under the Board of Admiralty, been put upon the Surveyor, in order that he should also assist in checking any increase in the expenditure for the dockyards?—The Surveyor could check it; but not in reference to the particular circular of 1849; I did not think, by cancelling that, that I injured the efficiency of the Surveyor in assisting me in keeping down the expenditure.

4095. One point in keeping down the expenditure had reference to filling up the vacancies?—Yes, to a certain extent it was so; but all those vacancies had been provided for by the vote.

4096. But there is generally an excess upon wages in the dockyards?—Yes.

4097. That

4097. That excess enables the department afterwards, with the sanction of the Treasury, to meet other excess of expenditure?—Yes.

4098. If there is an excess of money for wages unspent, that, with the sanction of the Treasury, can be carried to defray the other expenditure?—Yes.

4099. Then it was, in fact, a reserved fund for any extra outlay?—Yes.

4100. It was important, was it not, to keep that reserved fund?—Yes.

4101. Then for that purpose it was of importance not hastily to fill up vacancies?—No.

4102. The Surveyor's opinion upon the filling up of vacancies was of great value, as it enabled you to consider, looking at all the dockyards, whether it was desirable or not?—Yes.

4103. Then, by allowing the returns from the dockyards to pass first through the Surveyor's department, you were sure of having the recorded opinion of the Surveyor as to the filling up of those vacancies?—Yes, and I do not consider that it followed, by taking the correspondence directly to myself, that I at all prevented the Surveyor from giving his suggestions upon the filling up of those vacancies.

4104. Did you never fill up vacancies without first referring to the Surveyor?—Yes.

4105. If you did fill up vacancies without referring to the Surveyor, you did so far prevent the advantage which might be derived from his opinion?—Not quite so, because the Surveyor submitted a programme of the year's works to the Board; he then divided the programme as to the different yards, and if he thought it right to alter it, it would have been perfectly competent to him to have suggested that such and such vacancies should not be filled up, and perhaps an increase of work in another yard. I had many submissions from him, and I thought those suggestions would originate with him.

4106. You rather diminished his opportunities of suggesting if he did not receive the papers respecting the vacancies upon which his suggestions would arise?—He was in such constant communication under Lord Auckland's letter with the authorities of the dockyards, that he must have known of those vacancies; in many cases he did know of them, and made many submissions to me, and if the Committee call for them they will see that they were always attended to.

4107. Were there any other ways in which the Board of Admiralty seemed not to be in harmony with the House of Commons?—I always had a very great difficulty as to the questions. The Committee know that is the increasing habit of the House of Commons to inquire minutely into transactions in different parts of the globe or at the Admiralty.

4108. With regard to the questions of the House of Commons, when questions are put, it is always a matter of courtesy either to give notice, or else the person to whom the question is put can say he will answer it on another day, when he has had time to make inquiry?—Yes.

4109. Therefore he has always time to consult the Admiralty before he answers that question?—Yes.

4110. In what way would the recommendations passing through the hands of the Surveyor embarrass you in answering questions in the House of Commons?—Not at all; not the least. I thought the Committee referred to the want of harmony which there was between the Board and the House of Commons.

4111. Yes, but I thought it was because you felt difficulties on account of the want of harmony between the Board and the House of Commons, and that as one means of remedying that, you took the patronage from the Surveyor into your own hands?—That had only reference to one difficulty, not to the difficulty now under the consideration of the Committee.

4112. What was the other difficulty?—The difficulty I have stated several times to the Committee, that all my Parliamentary supporters represented that the patronage was entirely given hostile to the Government.

4113. The patronage of the first entries was in the Secretary at all times?—Yes.

4114. Was it not rather an advantage to be able to say to those who pressed upon you in other respects, at once, that the promotions in the dockyards were given up by the circular of Lord Auckland, in the exact words of that circular, and therefore, in the matter of promotions, "I cannot do what you wish"?—That answer would have been about the most unsatisfactory answer I could have given.

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4115. But it would have been clearly according to the circular of 1847, would it not?—It might have been according to the wording of the circular of 1847; but all their declarations were the other way as to its operation.

4116. But were there any facts the other way?—A number of names given me of people that were passed over.

4117. It would have been most desirable, for the good of the service, to have ascertained whether or not the circular of 1847 was fairly carried out, would it not?—Yes.

4118. When it was represented to you that names were passed over, and it was so far represented that it became your impression, why did you not make any inquiry into it?—Because I thought I could meet it by cancelling the circular, which did not then, as I have said before, seem of the great importance it has subsequently assumed.

4119. Your remedy was to take the actual patronage into your own hands?—No, because it must, according to the rules of 1847, pass through the hands of the Superintendent.

4120. From the evidence which the Committee have before them, given by the Duke of Northumberland, it appears that you represented to his Grace that the patronage was actually in the hands of the Surveyor?—So it seemed to me then.

4121. And you thought it ought to be in the hands of yourself, as Secretary?—Under the directions of 1847 I did, the margin that was left by the Auckland dockyard code of 1847.

4122. The circular of 1847 says that the Lords of the Admiralty give up themselves all patronage as to promotions?—The circular of 1847 states that two names shall be submitted, out of which their Lordships shall select. In the sixth page of the Parliamentary Paper, 272, it says, "The Superintendent will draw up a report, which he will transmit to the Admiralty with the original documents annexed to it, submitted to him by the master shipwright; and having reduced the list of candidates to two, by omitting the one whom he thinks least qualified, one of the names thus sent up will be appointed by Board Order to fill the vacancy.

4123. It is one of two names?—Yes.

4124. The patronage up to that extent was given to the Superintendents of the dockyards and to the principal officers of the dockyards; they were to select and send up two names?—Yes.

4125. Then at the conclusion you will find, "My Lords have now only to call upon the admirals and captains superintendent, the master shipwrights, and the other principal officers of the dockyards to assist them in working out this plan honestly. They have given sufficient proof, by the surrender of their own patronage, of the sincerity of their desire to make these great national establishments what they ought to be." Does not that seem to show that the Lords of the Admiralty of that day had given up the patronage, or at least pretended to have given up all promotions in the dockyards?—It was governed by a line in the 6th page; there was a surrrender on the part of the Lords of the Admiralty of much patronage by these regulations of 1847.

4126. If that surrender was all ostentation and a delusion, and not really carried out, it would have been quite right that another Government coming in should have exposed it?—I never said that it was a delusion.

4127. Without binding you to the exact words that you used in the House of Commons, you gave The House to understand, did you not, that it was something very like a delusion, practically. In your speech, you referred to the mode in which the administration was carried on when Sir Francis Baring and Mr. Parker were the First Lord and Secretary of the Admiralty?—This was in Sir Henry Ward's time.

4128. In Sir Henry Ward's time, you stated that it was vigorously administered, the spirit of that circular?—Yes.

4129. But you also stated that, at a subsequent time, when Mr. Parker came to the Admiralty as Secretary, which was at the time when Sir Francis Baring was First Lord, that a different spirit of administration was pursued?—Yes; what I meant was, that Sir Henry Ward, I believe, so far as I could judge, kept all the patronage which the regulations of 1847 allowed him, and that Mr. Parker, by the circular of 1849, surrendered even that to Somerset House.

4130. Then you meant in fact to say that Mr. Parker, instead of taking the patronage,

patronage, actually gave up the little patronage that Sir Henry Ward had left to the Secretary?—Yes, and surrendered it to Somerset House; I think I used the words "a gentle hand," or some phrase of that kind; it was that which Mr. Parker had surrendered that I wished to get back.

4131. Now what was it exactly that Mr. Parker had surrendered?—I considered it a virtual surrender of the choice between these two names.

4132. But the Surveyor had to make his observations upon the names, had he not?—Yes.

4133. Which observations, coming from an officer who was well acquainted with all the dockyards and the work there, must have been of value to the Admiralty, were they not?—I have told the Committee that I thought, when I cancelled that circular, that Sir Baldwin Walker himself did not know much about what was going on. It was represented to me that other people did it for him.

4134. Can you state to the Committee any facts that confirmed that opinion?—No, because I can only repeat the answer I gave to the Committee on the same subject.

4135. I thought, as you had expressed a wish to this Committee to consult papers at the Admiralty, that perhaps you had some evidence upon those points to bring before the Committee?—I told the Committee that it was chiefly the names passed over which would not appear at the Admiralty at all.

4136. But names passed over by the Surveyor would certainly appear at the Admiralty; he sends two names with his observations upon one; therefore you would at once know which name the Surveyor had passed over?—No; those two names need not appear at all, as it was represented to me.

4137. You cancelled the circular, I presume, with a perfect knowledge of the step that you were taking?—I cancelled the circular, believing that that was the best way, without giving personal offence, or involving me in difficulties as new Secretary to the Admiralty, which I could not grapple, to give me the means of ascertaining whether the complaints were ill or well founded. I found, from the Surveyor's letters to me, that unless the regulations of 1847 were interfered with, promotion, on political grounds, was impossible. In the Surveyor's letters he showed to me that the cancelling of the circular of 1849 prevented him controlling the estimates; and believing therefore, with him, that promotions on political grounds were impossible if the Superintendents did their duty, and being convinced that I could, with the assistance of the Superintendents and the Accountant-general, control the expenditure, the cancelling of the circular did not seem to me, as I have said several times, of the great importance that it has assumed.

4138. You felt convinced that promotions on political grounds would be impossible under the circular of 1847?—I had the Surveyor's own declaration to that effect.

4139. But you had, at this time, had that correspondence respecting Ridgeway?—Yes.

4140. Did not that, at least, give you an indication that promotions on political grounds were very dangerous and difficult to be avoided?—The inference from Ridgeway would be, that I need not, if I had determined to take a political course, have cancelled the circular at all.

4141. You might have superseded it without cancelling it, you mean?—Practically.

4142. You might, with the consent of the Lords of the Admiralty, have acted in defiance of the circular without cancelling it; is that what you mean?—Hardly that; but I might have gone on receiving the names sent up to me from Somerset House, which the actual wording of the circular did not prevent my doing; but this seemed to be acting so entirely in defiance of the spirit of the circular at all, that I thought it was more fair and open and above-board to cancel it.

4143. It was better, you thought, to cancel it than to act contrary to it?—Not the letter but the spirit; the spirit contains nothing about the distinction of two names, but it would have been, though not in hostility to the letter, a violation of the spirit of the circular, which I looked upon to vest the promotions in the hands of the Surveyor.

4144. Did you convey to the Duke of Northumberland the impression that the Surveyor actually erased one of the names at that time?—The Committee will see that the conversation was very fragmentary with the Duke. I certainly gave him to understand that the Surveyor left no discretion as to the power of the second name;

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and that, when he made remarks, any violation of those remarks with regard to the second name was treated as practically violating the orders of 1847; the whole of the cases that the Surveyor brought forward in the first part of his evidence show this. The Committee will see, by Sir Baldwin Walker's own showing, that the regulations of 1847 were never interfered with in any one instance that he named, George Bannister, William Cullum, George Bristow, William Stone, G. H. Prowse, S. Phillips, D. Raynill. I refer the Committee to Question 30, at which the subject is considered; there were two in November 1851 recommended to fill one vacancy; one of them to be selected: Edward Hardin and William Lacey. The charge brought against me is not that I at all went out of the routine of the regulations of 1847, and chose one of the two names submitted to me, but that, William Lacey's name being selected, I took Edward Hardin's instead of it.

4145. The Committee referred the question to Commodore Eden, the Superintendent of the dockyard at Woolwich, and under whom these men were; and Commodore Eden's impression was, that justice was not done to those men by men of long standing being passed over, and other men, as it appeared to me, somewhat arbitrarily promoted?—Yes; it appeared to me that that was a question of rather revising the regulations of 1847 than a cancelling of the order of 1849.

4146. When names were sent up by the Superintendent he was required to send up two names; the first he considered the best, and the second the next best, which might serve even as a check upon his own recommendation, might it not?—Yes, it might.

4147. Did not it seem to be a useful thing to oblige him not only to send up the person he thought best, but to give another name as a check upon his own recommendation?—Yes.

4148. That was the meaning, as it appeared to me, of the circular of 1847, was it not?—I do not find any words to that effect in the circular of 1847.

4149. My opinion was formed from the evidence of Commodore Eden; if you will look at his evidence you will find that that was what he stated?—I have the benefit of his evidence now for the first time.

4150. If the Surveyor's department exercised any undue influence as to the names when they passed through the Surveyor's department, was their priority altered, was the rank of the two names altered in any way, are you aware?—Not that I remember.

4151. Then, so far as the Surveyor's department went, the representations of the Superintendents of the dockyards were fairly sent on as they came to him?—So far as I remember, they were.

4152. Your alteration seems to take away the patronage, not merely from the Surveyor of the Navy, but to take away the power of recommendation from the Superintendents of the dockyards?—No; they have always the power to send up two names, and in the great majority of cases I acquiesced.

4153. They state that, up to April 1852, they never found any interference with their recommendations, but that after April 1852 they found frequently different names promoted and other names passed over, which they could not account for, but which they considered unfavourable to the general discipline of the men in the yard?—I have explained that by saying that, in many cases, what they considered as promotions I considered as first entries.

4154. But you considered them as first entries without ascertaining whether or not, before you came to the Admiralty, they had been considered as first entries?—I was always told that the lowest grade in the yard was a first entry, and I never had any statement to the contrary from any of the Superintendents, and I believed it.

4155. Had you ever asked them, as regards this point, what were to be considered first entries and what were not?—No; I never had any communication on this subject with them. There was a case referred to in the Royal William Yard of William Hawkins; he is promoted from third class labourer, and put to be police constable. I think the Honourable Member for Marylebone asked Captain Rich why he was appointed direct from the Admiralty; the reason was, that I did not look upon the appointment of third class labourers to policemen to be promotion, but new entry; therefore, though the man was in the yard, and recommended by the Admiral for the appointment, yet it was an appointment direct from the Admiralty, and I did not look upon it as a promotion.

4156. But

4156. But all those misunderstandings as to entries and promotions would have been in some degree obviated if there had been a greater harmony and means of explanation existing between yourself and the Surveyor of the Navy?—I never expected that there would have been anything but harmony and means of explanation.

4157. You did not endeavour to ascertain from him what were properly entries and what were promotions?—I used to receive submissions on subjects from all the superintendents of the yards and the Surveyor; and I was impressed with the belief that it was for them to take the initiative in these matters. I had no doubt in my own mind I should have attended with great respect to any submission from them; but it seemed to me that they always, as a matter of routine at the office, took the initiative. As I said before, the Committee would see that, if they would send for those submissions from the Surveyor of the Navy during my tenure of office.

4158. They would see that in many cases you acquiesced in his recommendations?—Yes; the suggestions were of such a character as to authorise me to believe that in cases of this kind he would take the initiative. That was as much impressed on my mind as it is now that the Committee will ask me questions, and that it is not for me to volunteer.

4159. It appears from what the Duke of Northumberland told the Committee that you represented to him that Mr. Parker had himself issued the circular of 1849, and that you had equally yourself the power to cancel it?—Yes. I do not know that I said it in those words; but from the first I thought that I had the power as to the department of the dockyards. When, therefore, I found that the circular of 1849 was not in the Board Book, but was in the General Minute Book, I immediately concluded that it was in my power to cancel it. I may be permitted, perhaps, in confirmation of that view, that the dockyards were entirely in my department, to put in to the Committee a letter which I sent forth on the 1st November 1852, to all the Superintendents of Her Majesty's dockyards. I will read it, with the permission of the Committee. "My Lords having considered it advisable to revise and consolidate the general printed Dockyard Instructions, as well as the several orders issued from time to time for the government of Her Majesty's Naval Establishments, are desirous to obtain any suggestions or observations, as to their practical operation, which you, or the officers under you, may have to offer; if, therefore, any alterations, additions or omissions are thought desirable in the said instructions or orders, you are to state, as soon as convenient, what these alterations, additions or omissions should, in your opinion, be; transmitting an abstract of the reasons for such an opinion." I may say that as I went on in correspondence with those dockyards I perceived that there was an incompleteness and an incongruity in some of the dockyard arrangements; that they did not harmonise together. When I went round at the Board's visitation, and examined the dockyard regulations, I found several of them modified; marked with red ink as to some particular points which were not observed; some minute fresh arrangements were added. Therefore I thought it desirable, and it was my intention if I remained in office, to re-produce the whole code of dockyard regulations, harmonised altogether from their earliest commencement to the Circular of 1852; I could not undertake such a work as that without consultation with the Superintendents, and I therefore issued this circular; but so completely was I convinced that the dockyards were entirely under my management that I never thought of consulting any single Lord of the Admiralty as to issuing this circular.

4160. You proposed to issue that circular, and you did issue it, supposing that you could upon your own authority alter all the dockyard instructions?—No, but I considered that I might have those suggestions, and with the co-operation of Mr. Pennell, in whose branch Sir Henry Ward's regulations were drawn up, I might, on my own responsibility, submit a code of regulations to the Board, not formally announcing to them that I had taken the initiative in doing so. I should not have altered the regulations without submitting them to the Board; but I issued this without submitting it to the Board, because I thought it thoroughly in my own province.

4161. You issued a circular to all the Superintendents of the dockyards, proposing to revise the general dockyard instructions, and you did this without any communication with the Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes, I thought it so completely within my own province.

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4162. Before you issued a circular like that to all the Superintendents, did you consult any one who had been in the office as to whether it was within your province or not?—No; I do not think that I did.

4163. Was not it somewhat a hasty step to send round to all the Superintendents of the dockyards to propose to revise a thick volume of dockyard instructions without any communication first with any of the officers of the department?—Not according to the way in which the departmental business was managed at the Admiralty, I think.

4164. It was so managed that you did not think it desirable to consult any one before you issued that circular?—This circular pledged the Board to nothing; the departments of the Admiralty when I was there were so thoroughly divided, that it never struck me to ask anyone as to the issuing of this circular.

4165. There were at the Admiralty two Lords who had been Superintendents of dockyards?—Yes.

4166. Would it not have been advisable to have consulted them before you issued that circular?—I certainly should have submitted the suggestions of the Superintendents to them.

4167. Before you proposed to enter upon an inquiry of that length, a general revision of all the dockyard instructions, which would have entailed upon the Board very considerable labour, was it not advisable to consult them beforehand?—I do not know that it would have been a very voluminous and extensive operation; it would have been rather a consolidation than anything else.

4168. It would have necessitated going carefully through that volume of instructions, would it not?—Certainly, but it would have necessitated it on my part, and on the part of those gentlemen in the office most conversant with the subject. The way I should have introduced would have been not as a code proposed to be altered, but a code proposed to be substituted.

4169. But whenever you issued the new code, the Lords of the Admiralty would have been responsible for it?—Certainly.

4170. Therefore they must, in fact, have gone over it before it was issued as a revised code?—Yes.

4171. Therefore the revision of the code would have imposed upon them very considerable labour?—It would have imposed some trouble; I am not prepared to say very severe labour; from their knowledge of the dockyards those Lords whose names have been mentioned would have at once known whether they acquiesced in or disapproved of the new arrangements. I put the circular in to show that it was not at all my wish to avoid communications with the Superintendents of the yards, or consultations with them.

4172. Having sent your circular to all the dockyards, did you receive any answer?—I had only one from Woolwich; it took some time to consider. I believe that the new dockyard regulations, which have been issued since the present Board came in, are founded upon those suggestions. It would not be possible to call upon the Admiralty to show those suggestions; but the result at which the Board has arrived is laid upon the table of the House of Commons, upon the papers moved for by the Honourable Member for South Essex.

4173. The revised code will be published as the last was?—Yes; but not the suggestions upon which that code was more or less founded.

4174. Is there any other point to which you wish to call the attention of the Committee with regard to the evidence given by Mr. Disraeli, and the difficulties you had to contend with, being the only civilian at the Admiralty?—I do not know whether it was sufficiently put as to the difficulty of the questions. It was generally considered by naval officers that the House of Commons should not at all interfere with questions of officers, or questions of accidents to ships, or questions of naval arrangements. There was always a great dislike on the part of the Board to enter fully into the information which I was under the necessity of assuring them, under our modern system, the House of Commons would require.

4175. You had one Naval Lord in the House of Commons?—Yes.

4176. And for the answering of any questions, you, being the Secretary, had power to call for all papers, and obtain all the information you required?—Yes; but it was not the same thing quite, as to answering questions.

4177. The questions that can be put in the House of Commons relate almost entirely to matters of fact, one way or the other?—No; in a great degree to the intentions of the Board. The Committee will recollect that many times in the House

House of Commons the questions are as to the intentions of the Board. Is it the intention of the present Board to do so and so; and no reference to the papers will answer that.

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4178. The question would, of course, be in the notice?—Yes.

4179. Then you have only to state to the Board what the question is, and it is for them to supply you with the answer as to what their intentions are?—Yes.

4180. Then what difficulty would there be in that?—Because sometimes they were reluctant to give the information that I thought the House of Commons had a right to demand.

4181. The Committee were going through some cases the other day mentioned by Captain Richards; there was Rule's case, which you were explaining to the Committee; George Rule being appointed on the 6th of November 1852?—George Rule was one of those cases that I looked upon as first entries.

4182. But you passed over the names recommended?—I did not think it was incumbent, under the Regulations, to observe the names recommended in the case of first entries.

4183. Did you think that when Captain Richards sent up a recommendation, those names, he was usurping an authority that did not belong to him?—I think it was perfectly competent to him to send up the names, but it was not necessary for me to fill them up. I will not call it an encroachment; but it was a limitation on the patronage of the Admiralty.

4184. Did you inquire whether it was a limitation on the patronage of the Admiralty which had been practised under your predecessors?—My impression was, that it was a limitation, and that would not have been approved under Sir Henry Ward.

4185. You thought that, under him, it would not have been approved?—Yes.

4186. In short, that it was an encroachment on the part of the Superintendents, that had crept in during the administration of Mr. Parker?—The term "encroachment" is hardly fair; I should say that the patronage was narrower than in Sir Henry Ward's time.

4187. It has been stated by each of the Superintendents that they consider that limitation of the patronage a great advantage to the efficiency of the dockyards?—Yes.

4188. Had you consulted them whether or not they so considered it at that time?—I stated to the Committee before, that I thought they would have taken the initiative, especially after what the Duke of Northumberland told me of his invitation to them to communicate with him, and especially, I may say, and above all, as to Captain Richards. I had less suspicion of acting, as Captain Richards considered, contrary to the Regulations of 1847, with regard to him, than I had as to any other yard, if, indeed, I had any suspicion at all; but I had most confidence that Captain Richards would communicate with the Duke personally or by letter, because he was specially invited so to do, and personally because the facilities of access from Chatham were so great.

4189. He had been invited to come to see the Duke of Northumberland or Admiral Hyde Parker?—Yes.

4190. But as the Duke of Northumberland and Admiral Hyde Parker had nothing to do with the patronage, which had been all given over to you, it was of very little use for him to see them?—No; it was particularly on the question of patronage that the Duke invited him to come up.

4191. The Duke was asked this Question, 3182: "Did you press upon the Secretary of the Admiralty the importance of strictly adhering to the circular of 1847"? and his answer was, "At that time I impressed upon him that no regulation of the Admiralty must be violated." Did not the Duke bring to your notice the circular of 1847, with respect to the promotions and patronage?—I read it to him, and talked it over with him, and his Grace said exactly what he has stated in evidence.

4192. He says, in answer to a former question upon the subject of Ridgeway, "I told Mr. Stafford that the regulations of the dockyards must not be infringed; and having given him that admonition about it, I asked him what had been done in the case of Ridgeway." Here, again, the Duke seems to have been somewhat dissatisfied as to what was going on as to the promotions in the dockyards?—Ridgeway, as the Committee will remember, was quite early in the commencement of my office, before the circular of the 19th was issued.

4193. But the promotion of Ridgeway was not in accordance with the circulars

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that were then in force?—The circular of 1847 did not recognise any addition from the private trade.

4194. It did not exclude it?—No, but it seemed to me in its animus to point to those people in the yard having a right to promotion.

4195. Had you inquired whether Sir Henry Ward had taken a man from the private trade after that circular?—No, not at that time; it was subsequent to that that I saw Mr. Black in the yard at Woolwich, and then I heard of the private trade; I do not know of any passage in the Duke's evidence in which he says that he told me afterwards that he had any complaint; on the contrary.

4196. I would refer you to another passage: "On the 8th of October," at Question 3198, "Admiral Hyde Parker states that he had written about the removal of the master smith from Chatham to Portsmouth, stating how injurious it would be to the public service: had he written to your Grace upon that subject? Yes, he had written to me on the subject after the matter was over, so far as I recollect, after the appointment was made; he wrote me a letter then, when I was just coming up to London, representing the case very strongly; it was made up of two parts, one was of a public nature, and the other as to the way in which Mr. Stafford had treated him during the time, which he felt very deeply indeed; he considered it a very deep affront, the manner in which it was done." Then he goes on to say, "The whole arrangement of the appointment was just before I came up to London; and if they had waited another week, all the world would have been present; I think it was done rather hastily, and had better have been postponed; it was rather irregular also, and I was most vexed that that was the manner in which Mr. Stafford had treated Admiral Hyde Parker." That was again a reflection upon your conduct for the treatment of Admiral Hyde Parker, at the Admiralty, as I understand it?—I do not think it had any reference to the Regulations of 1847.

4197. It had reference to the question of promotion in the dockyards?—Yes; but Admiral Hyde Parker never raised the question that the appointment of Cotsell to Portsmouth was against the Auckland Regulations of 1847.

4198. Will you refer to the case of Rix and Parnell, at Question 2112; there the Superintendent, Captain Richards, stated that the labourers had been promised that, as vacancies arose, no new sawyers should be entered, but that they should rise again to their places; now, that promise was unfortunately broken, by men being appointed who were not from the reduced labourers?—I can only regret that I did not know these circumstances at the time.

4199. If you had sent for the Surveyor of the Navy, and asked him as to those cases, when they were submitted, could you not have obtained that information?—Rather if I had written to Captain Richards.

4200. You had two ways at least of obtaining accurate information; did you adopt neither of them?—Not in those cases, because I thought the right of private entry, by the Regulation of 1847 belonged to me; will the Committee allow me to call their attention to Question 2099; I again have to impress upon the Committee that which I did venture to do at the first examination.

4201. That was a question that I put to Captain Richards: "Were there many cases during the year 1852, in which your suggestions as to promotions were entirely attended to?" To which he answered, "No, certainly; in the great majority there is no doubt about it. The rule, to a certain extent, was followed. There are exceptions to the rule, there is no doubt. I have not before me the papers, but I should say at once that there are six or seven, or even ten to one; there is no doubt of it." Then, I asked, "Cases in which your recommendations were attended to? Yes; no doubt about it"?—Yes; these questions coming up day by day, or week by week, when I found that such a name as George Rule or Bush was put in, I thought it not a blamable act on the part of Captain Richards to nominate to the first entry, but it was in my power to reject it, and taking five or six of those cases of first entries, I did reject those cases, which, when they are brought together in this particular form, seem rather formidable, unless the Committee bear in mind the question and answer which have just been read.

4202. Did you not, when names were submitted, such as promotions to sawyers and labourers, consider that by putting in further names you did injure those who were looking up for promotion?—I thought if no sawyer was admitted except for a probationary period a labourer, it would be very unfair to the trade of the place.

4203. Was not that a reason for coming to an understanding with the superintendents

tendents regarding those promotions of labourers?—Yes, if the superintendents had made any submissions to me on the subject, general submissions.

4204. Were not the authorities of the Admiralty forced to represent any case to the superintendents?—No, it did not seem to be so, I did not think that any representation was necessary, any more than that I should direct them to send the letters to me or send them to Whitehall; whether right or wrong, I had no misgiving in my mind upon that subject; the same remark applies to all those cases.

4205. Take the case of Charrison?—He was promoted from being a yard labourer to the 6th class metal mills; the 6th class metal mills is the lowest class, and I looked upon it as a first entry; I think Captain Richards says that the name of Charrison was not down.

4206. This was a question connected very much with the industry and good working of the yard, and Captain Richards was asked this question, "Was that a case that was contrary to the circular of 1847? Decidedly, it was a promotion without my recommendation, and without my being in any way consulted; because if I had been asked the question about Charrison, I should have decidedly opposed his promotion; because he had been before me for idling, as a labourer, and was within an ace of being dismissed from the service for it"?—That exactly illustrates what I say; that we were going on two different interpretations of the same code.

4207. But going on in a way most mischievous to the state of the dockyard? If Captain Richards had reported Charrison to be unfit, the responsibility would have been mine of retaining him in his office.

4208. He had recommended one man to be unfit, and even withheld the promotion on that account; to which you sent him back an answer, that the promotion was immediately to go forward?—I directed him to report officially.

4209. Was it to be expected that he, as Superintendent of the dockyard, would take upon himself afterwards to withhold promotions under the Board of Admiralty, which appeared to him to take a different course?—I should say, speaking with the utmost frankness, that the interview with the Duke of Northumberland, the First Lord of the Admiralty, having taken place with regard to Ridgeway, would rather induce him to make a further communication, perhaps not to me, but to the First Lord. The First Lord said, "If you ever have any interference in your duty, or if you ever have any complaint to make, come to me, and you may rely upon it I will support you." He said that to Captain Richards; and after that express invitation on the part of the Duke, I should have considered it in my own case rather a reason the more for writing confidentially to the Duke on any subject in which he might consider his duty was interfered with, or he had any complaint to make.

4210. You were aware, at the same time, that the Duke wished apparently to keep himself quite clear from all promotions and advancements in the dockyards?—I was aware that the Duke had placed the daily investigation of those promotions upon me, but it did not at all follow that the Duke would not have been ready and willing to have received any letter, and show it to me on the subject.

4211. But the Duke wished to take no part in the patronage?—Captain Richards had no right to know anything of that; on the contrary, the conversation with Captain Richards would rather lead him to suppose that the Duke wished, at all events, to interfere in his particular case.

4212. You were aware, from the Duke having given up the patronage, that he wished to have nothing to do with it?—Yes; till there was any necessity for interference on his part.

4213. There was the case of a man, named Vally, promoted to a rigger; the men that Captain Richards recommended were Henry Best, or Thomas Roans; the Superintendent there sent up two names, and those two names were set aside, and a rigger, of the name of Vally, was appointed?—I looked upon all the established riggers as first entries. There was a case as to a rigger in which his name was sent up to me, and I entered him in the yard. Captain Nias wrote up to the Board, that instead of letting him go into the yard, the man did not wish for it; he had not asked for it; upon which I wrote a private letter to Commodore Seymour and asked him to see about it, I entered the man as first entry; the Commodore admitted him.

4214. As you could not have known of those names, except by some one suggesting them to you, will you state whether they were or not suggested to you

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by any political influence?—I should think, in most cases, they certainly were; it is the privilege of the Government for the time being; people send the names up, and they are entered in a book; or if vacancies exist at the moment the application is received, those men are put in; that was the practice under every other Government.

4215. For first entries it has always been the practice of the Government to take names from their friends, and send those names to the dockyards?—Not to the dockyard exactly; the question here was not whether it was the practice of the Government, but a question as to the definition of "first entries" under the regulations of 1847.

4216. The definition which you put upon it was a very injurious one to the workmen in the dockyards, because it precluded them from rising from the position of labourers?—No, because it did not follow that I should refuse that rise; in those few cases, as I said before, it was refused; but, in many cases, it was acquiesced in.

4217. In those cases that have been brought before the Committee they were refused?—Yes.

4218. The next case is the case of Ethell; here again Captain Richards states that three names were brought to him, and "Ethell's name being the last of the three on the chief engineer's list; therefore," he says, "upon the principle of dropping the third name, and sending on two, I dropped Ethell's name, and sent on Godding and Gifford, as being the two boys well qualified, Godding the best, and yet Ethell was promoted. The Board could not have known the fact by direct means that Ethell's name had been brought before me at all; I did not send on the officer's letter; I sent on my own, with the names taken from the officer's letter." When the answer came back that Ethell was to be promoted, other two names having been sent up, would not that in effect set aside, in the dockyard, the authority of the Superintendent?—Whether it would set it aside or not, it seemed to me that was a question as to the alteration of the regulations of 1847.

4219. Then it was not only that you put in new names, but you took labourers who were in the dockyard and promoted them without the recommendation of the Superintendent?—As in the case of the policeman, when it was a change from one class to another. I did not know that the labourer was in the yard: say A. B. being promoted to be third class sawyer, his name was sent up as a first entry; I did not know whether he was in the yard or not, but being in the dockyard in one capacity, it did seem to prevent his being promoted to the lowest grade in another capacity.

4220. When a man was once in the dockyard it would enable you to ascertain his character, and you could have written to the Superintendent and have inquired whether such a man was an industrious, sober, and active labourer?—Yes; in many cases I did not know that he was a labourer; for instance, in the case of Ethell, I suppose his name was sent in to me as a first entry. I did not know that this officer had rejected his name, it was the third on the list, and therefore struck out by Captain Richards; I assumed it to be a first entry, and I sent the name of Ethell, believing that I was exercising the invariable patronage of the Government.

4221. You did not know that Ethell had been in the yard before?—No.

4222. You thought that they were new names sent to you, and that you had a fair right, as it was your patronage, to enter them in the yard?—That was it.

4223. All this misunderstanding arose from a want of proper communication with Captain Richards?—The mass of Captain Richards' evidence has gone upon that unfortunate misunderstanding; and I must say, that it would all have been remedied if Captain Richards had availed himself of the Duke of Northumberland's special individual invitation.

4224. Captain Richards did bring the case of Ridgeway before the Duke?—Yes, and he was then invited to come again.

4225. The case he brought was not remedied?—The case having been decided upon, that it would be better to discontinue Ridgeway after having been proved to be incompetent.

4226. The Duke did not set that matter right by reversing the order of which Captain Richards complained?—No; the Duke said again, at Question 3172, that he had such a conversation with Captain Richards, and at that time Captain Richards made no complant; he says, "From the date of that circular I never heard of any complaint from any of the Superintendents of any one of the dockyards.

dockyards. With regard to Captain Richards he had an opportunity then, as well as at any other time that he came to me, to make a complaint, and also Commodore Seymour, who has given evidence." Commodore Seymour could not have had the opportunities of a personal interview with the Duke that Captain Richards had, because Commodore Seymour was at such a great distance.

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4227. With regard to the apprentices, there was a case in December 1852 of names being sent down directing that seven boys should be examined as shipwright apprentices?—I believe the whole system of apprentices, as laid down in the regulations of 1847, was affected by an order issued in 1851, in November, that no apprentices should be entered during the year 1852. On the 8th of December, I believe, the Surveyor of the Navy represented to the Admiralty the necessity of entering a certain number at the different ports: Deptford, four; Woolwich, seven; at Chatham, seven; at Sheerness, six; at Portsmouth, 13; at Devonport, 12; at Pembroke, six; it was proposed that a number of entries should take place, and an examination.

4228. The statement of Captain Richards is, that "On the 17th of December 1852, their Lordships notified that the entries for apprentices for 1853 would be limited to seven, and that the names of the boys would be sent down that I have been speaking of. Before the year 1852, I should say that the practice had been, towards the latter part of the year, to make up a list in the master shipwright's office; and I always gave permission for the names of boys, the sons of deserving men, to be put on that list; and from time to time we received an order to put on the list a certain boy as a candidate for shipwrights' apprentices; and when January comes, the whole of the boys go to the school, and are examined in the presence of myself, the master shipwright, the chaplain, and the schoolmaster, and their qualifications are sent up, their ages, their acquirements, whatever they may be, their parents, and the servitude of the parents." It appears that in December 1852 seven names were sent down, and that general competition was not to be allowed which had been usual on the entry of boys?—I think there were 11 names sent down.

4229. The question is, "Where were those names sent from? From the Board of Admiralty, on the 24th of December, for additional names were sent in case any of those already ordered should be found unfit, making, in the whole, 11 for seven vacancies; and the result appears to have been that, out of the 11, 10 only appeared; five were found qualified, and were entered, and two could neither read nor write; one could only spell and write indifferently; one was above the age, and one was found unfit by the surgeon. The five that were found qualified were entered, and the five remaining vacancies were not filled." Now the effect of that was, that it prevented any examination and competition which gave a chance to the best boys getting that advancement?—The passage in the regulations of of 1847, upon which I went, seemed to me to justify that course.

4230. Was not it a hardship, at least was not it a disadvantage to the service, as it did not secure your getting the best boys promoted, if you only sent down seven instead of having the competition of a greater number?—It was so far a disadvantage as to prevent some of the cleverest boys getting in; but the test was applied to them all; the test required by the regulations of 1847, "No boy is to be admitted after the 31st of March 1847, who is not able to read and write well, or who has not some knowledge of arithmetic."

4231. There was a certain security that none could be entered if very unfit; but the practice had been to get even an advantage over that, and to have competition so as to secure the best boys?—Yes, that must be a matter of opinion; and I submit my own opinion, with great deference, to the Committee. I had made up my mind on this subject. I thought that entirely to give up these apprenticeships to the people in the yards, was committing an act of injustice to another class of people who were very meritorious. I will give an instance: supposing the Lords of the Admiralty had confined themselves to the names sent up by the superintendents of the yards, which they very wisely did not do, by the regulations of 1847, it frequently happened, without distinction of party, that an old officer would come, and say, "There is A. B., the son of a sailor, who was under me, the captain of my gig, or my boatswain;" I wish you could get him an apprenticeship." I thought that the claims of some of these officers, and the claims of those old sailors, on the part of their sons, were so strong, that it was for the advantage of the service not to insist that a boy should be obliged to give way, because another boy could write or cipher better, but that

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other elements should be taken into consideration in the dispensation of the patronage of those apprenticeships.

4232. Before, according to the practice, there had been the means of competition. It would have been quite open to the Admiralty to have sent down seven additional names, and to have let those boys enter into competition in January with the other boys that might be sent in, and that would have given the public an opportunity of obtaining the best boys into the service; but to restrict it to the seven sent down by the Admiralty, was rather a hindrance to the service, and gave discouragement to the men in the yard?—It might be the case of a boy of very fair abilities, whom the Admiralty were anxious to get in, if he could pass the rule laid down, in consequence of the services of the person who come to claim for him, and the services of the father himself; but all those services would be thrown aside, because he was not comparatively so clever as a set of very smart boys, who might be entered as the sons of people in comparatively better circumstances.

4233. Captain Richards stated to the Committee, that other circumstances were taken into consideration, "their ages, their requirements, whatever they may be, their parents, and the servitude of their parents;" therefore the claims of their parents would not be overlooked, if the promotion was properly considered; is not that so?—Yes, it is so.

4234. Therefore, the son of any deserving man sent down to enter into this competition by the Board of Admiralty, would have been carefully considered, I imagine?—He would always have run the risk of being thrown over.

4235. He would run the risk of being defeated, and the course the Admiralty took was a course which ensured his getting the place, because it excluded the others?—If they came up to the standard required by the regulations of 1847.

4236. Those names were sent down on the 24th of December, after the Board's existence had terminated nearly?—Yes, the Board's existence terminated, I think, on the 5th or 6th of January.

4237. The writs for the new Lords had been moved for before the 24th, had they not?—I think they had; I do not know. Permit me to say, that this is not at all without a precedent at the Admiralty; those are what we call haul-down promotions, and if there is anything I ever did at the Admiralty for which there are precedents, giving away the last mortmain patronage, it is decidedly in those cases.

4238. Lord *Hotham.*] Are there haul-down promotions for apprentices?—In almost every piece of patronage that falls vacant.

4239. *Chairman.*] Properly speaking, the examination ought not to take place till January?—I do not know, they were then only sent down for examination, and when once sent down for examination, the only question that remained was as to their fitness or unfitness.

4240. Sir *B. Hall.*] With regard to those sent down on the 21st of December, it appears that there were seven names sent down to fill seven places?—Yes.

4241. The Government announced their resignation in the House of Commons on the 16th of December?—Yes.

4242. But having sent down seven names on the 21st to fill up seven vacancies, which you believed it was customary for the outgoing Government to fill up, why were four additional names sent down on the 24th?—I believe it was the custom of the outgoing Government to fill up as many names as they could.

4243. There were only seven vacancies, and you sent down eleven?—Yes, in case some of the seven should not be fit.

4244. To make it doubly sure as to the entry?—Yes.

4245. Four more were sent down?—Yes, I think so.

4246. *Chairman.*] It says in this circular of 1847, that the list of the apprentices is to be made out in the month of January in every year, and "if 20 apprentices are to be entered, 40 names are to be sent up, and so on in proportion for a larger or a smaller number"?—Yes, quite so.

4247. First of all as to the time; the time was anticipated?—No. "My Lords reserve to themselves the right of directing the children of persons out of the yard, whom they may deem entitled to this privilege, to be entered upon the list from which the apprentices are to be selected."

4248. But not to make them the sole list; did that seem to you to give you power to exclude from that examination all the children of the workmen in the dockyard?—That went to Chatham as a particular case; but in the number of

apprentices

apprentices submitted by the Surveyor of the Navy, there were not anything like the whole number filled up by the Admiralty.

4249. But in this dockyard there were seven vacancies to be filled up, and the circular of 1847 orders, "In the annual choice of apprentices, due regard will be shown to the recommendations of the superintendent, and the yard officers, where they relate to the children of deserving artificers." Now it appears from the names being sent down from the Admiralty, that the superintendent and the yard officers were totally superseded in their plan of recommending the children of deserving artificers?—In that particular yard, for that particular year.

4250. In that particular year, the circular of 1847 was totally superseded?—No, I do not read the circular of 1847 to restrict the Lords of the Admiralty from filling up one list altogether.

4251. It says, "a certain number of apprentices annually, whose names are to be entered by Board order upon the superintendent's list, on the recommendation of the yard officers, allowing the apprentices out of their time, whose conduct has been satisfactory, to fill the first vacancies upon the establishment, and reserving the rest for candidates of their own selection, upon a proper report of the character and circumstances of those who present themselves." By that it appears that two sets of boys might be brought, one from the sons of artificers in the yard, and another set of candidates recommended by the Lords of the Admiralty, both, as it appears, to be examined together in January of every year?—I believe these boys were examined in January.

4252. Were they all examined together; was there any competition; how could there be if there were only seven vacancies, and only seven names were sent down?—There were four other names sent down, and the result was, that five were chosen, leaving two for vacancies; I think, according to Captain Richards' statement, there were; he was asked whether he considered that the sons of the workmen "would otherwise have had a chance of becoming shipwright's apprentices," and his answer was, "undoubtedly"?—Those were, I believe, the sons of people in the yard.

4253. Who were selected by the Lords of the Admiralty not upon that competition which the circular of 1847 had provided for?—Of course; I differ from the Committee with great respect to these words, "My Lords reserve to themselves the right of directing the children of persons out of the yard, whom they may deem entitled to this privilege, to be entered upon the list from which the apprentices are to be selected."

4254. They are to be entered, but they are to go together through that examination, to take place in January?—Yes, but the yard might have added 11 also, and those 22 might have been competitors in the examination in January; in Question 2148 it states, "Where were those names sent from? From the Board of Admiralty; on the 24th of December four additional names were sent, in case any of those already ordered should be found unfit, making, in the whole, 11 for seven vacancies; and the result appears to have been, that out of the 11, 10 only appeared; five were found qualified, and were entered, and two could neither read nor write; one could only spell and write indifferently; one was above the age, and one was found unfit by the surgeon; the five that were qualified were entered, and the two remaining vacancies were not filled up;" but those two remaining vacancies, as I understand it, were in the power of the present Board of Admiralty to have filled up.

4255. It is to the interest of the service of the dockyards to which I am referring, that the circular of 1847 seems to have provided, "If 20 apprentices are to be entered, 40 names must be sent up," so that they might secure a competition, and let the best boys get the advantage; now, sending down a certain number of names only from the Admiralty, did not allow of that competition?—The case would have been stronger of course in proportion to the number sent down for seven vacancies, if 14 names had been sent down.

4256. The case might have been worse?—Yes, the case might have been worse; I say that the Board had that power, and I believe they did not go beyond the power given to them by the regulations of 1847; but I do not say that they did not go beyond the power that Captain Richards considered they ought to be invested with; there were in the result two names left for the captain superintendent's list, to fill up.

4257. Mr. *H. F. Davie.*] Had none of those 11 boys anything to do with the dockyards?

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dockyards?—Yes, all the five that were chosen were children of people in the dockyards.

4258. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears from the evidence of the Duke of Northumberland, given yesterday, that his Grace entered office about the 2d or 3d of March 1852, and you entered upon your duties about the same time, did you not?—The first act of the Board was to appoint its own secretary.

4259. Immediately after the Duke of Northumberland took office you were appointed secretary to the Board?—Yes.

4260. That was almost simultaneous with the fact of the Duke taking office?—Just the same day.

4261. You have stated in answer to Question 1187, "You consulted him prior to cancelling the order as to cancelling it? Yes.—Are the Committee to understand that you cancelled the order under the authority of the First Lord? Under the cognizance of the First Lord, and under his authority." Then at Question 1189 you were asked, "With his sanction, of course? With his cognizance.—(1190.) Sir *B. Hall.*] Was it with his sanction? Yes." Now, in the evidence given by the Duke of Northumberland yesterday, he was asked, at Question 3226, "What statement did he make to your Grace as to his intention to cancel that circular?" and his answer was, "He said that he had examined the books and found that the circular was of Mr. Parker's issuing, and not a Board Minute, and that he had the same power, as Secretary, as Mr. Parker had, to cancel it, and that he should do so on his own responsibility." I wish to ask you whether you informed his Grace that the circular to which you refer was endorsed as approved by Mr. Parker and minuted by the First Lord?—No, I think not.

4262. Are the Committee to understand from you that, with the exception of this intimation to his Grace of your intention to cancel the circular, you had no communication as to cancelling this circular with any Lords of the Admiralty?—It was rather more than one intimation to his Grace; it was the subject of many conversations too; a part of many conversations.

4263. With the exception of those conversations, you had no communication with the Board of Admiralty, or with the Lords of the Admiralty?—No.

4264. It appears that you wrote a letter to the Surveyor of the Navy on the 2d of April, exactly one month after you took office, in which you spoke of the dissatisfaction which existed among your political friends; and subsequently you intimated that the only way you had of removing that dissatisfaction was by cancelling the circular; was that so?—There is the letter in evidence.

4265. The impression upon your mind was, that the only way of removing the dissatisfaction that existed was by cancelling the circular?—Yes.

4266. You were asked yesterday with whom you had a consultation, as to cancelling this circular?—Yes.

4267. I understood you to say that you had had a consultation with certain political friends, but you declined to give their names, or any information upon the subject?—I do not think that the word "political" was introduced; if it was, it was erroneous.

4268. Then you had a consultation with those who were not political friends only?—I do not think that I had any consultation with political friends, as to cancelling the circular. I do not think they would have understood it, it was too technical a point.

4269. Was it in consequence of consultations and communications which you had with, or received from your political friends, that you were induced to cancel this circular?—No; they complained that political influences were used in a directly contrary manner, and they said that something ought to be done, and I turned over in my mind what could be done; I could not reverse the regulations of 1847, neither could I upon vague rumour, not attaching so much importance to the circular of 1849 then, as is attached now to it; but I thought that I might, at all events, ascertain whether those complaints were ill founded, by cancelling that circular.

4270. The reference to the Committee is this, we are "to inquire into the circumstances under which a circular sent to the Superintendents of Her Majesty's Dockyards, dated the 26th of September 1849, was cancelled on the 19th of April 1852, without any Order or Minute of the Board"?—The answer to the latter part is, that the circular of 1849 was issued without any Order or Minute of the Board also.

4271. The Committee are ordered to inquire into those circumstances, and the natural

natural inquiry is to ask you whom you consulted, and under whose advice you took this step with regard to cancelling the circular. Are the Committee to understand that you decline answering those questions?—I do not decline taking the responsibility upon myself; I do not decline stating, according to the amount of the evidence before the Committee, that I consulted the Duke of Northumberland; I do not decline to state that I did not consult any other Lords of the Admiralty.

4272. Do you decline informing the Committee of those persons whom you consulted, and in consequence of which consultations you were induced to cancel the circular?—The Committee will see that it is not from the least desire to avoid the question, but the question is hardly put in a manner that I can answer it; I can state, that my political friends were of opinion, that large political influence was used against them, and that they mentioned, I ought to have recourse to some remedy, and that I considered the only means within my power, without doing what I conscientiously could not do, was the cancelling of that circular, therefore the consultation with those persons to whom I refer, was rather as to the means of doing it, than as to the propriety of doing it.

4273. I do not press you as to the names of the parties, but do you decline giving the Committee that information which I now ask for?—I understand the Committee, to consider that the giving of the names of those persons whom I did consult, would more or less involve them in the responsibility as to this circular.

4274. I only ask you, do you decline to give the names of those parties?—I consider that those parties whom I did consult, acted in confidential intercourse with me; and I consider that giving their names would be a violation of that confidential intercourse; therefore with the greatest respect to the Committee, I at once, and firmly decline to give their names; I may be permitted to add, that they were not Members of either House of Parliament.

4275. With reference to your visit to Plymouth and to Devonport, did you receive any instructions from the Board of Admiralty in reference to any visit to Plymouth and Devonport in the month of June?—No.

4276. What orders were given for the sailing of the Black Eagle at that time?—I have not seen the sailing orders; I hoped the Committee would have called for them yesterday.

4277. Do you remember what day you arrived at Devonport?—It was the 21st or 22d, I think.

4278. How soon did you see General Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell after your arrival there?—I do not exactly remember; I arrived there much after I expected I should, for the machinery broke when we were off Portland. I think we set off from London, not from Portsmouth; I think, as far as I remember, we arrived on Tuesday morning, the 22d.

4279. How soon after your arrival on Tuesday morning, the 22d of June, did you see General Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell?—I think it must have been the afternoon of that day, so far as I can remember.

4280. Where did you see them?—I think at Morshead's Hotel.

4281. It was stated by Mr. Triscott, in his examination on the 6th of May, that on Wednesday the 23d, there were certain persons there, among whom were Sir John Maxwell and Mr. John Beer; it begins at the top of the page, and is in answer to Question 2773. Mr. Triscott says he dined with you at Morshead's Hotel, and that there were 10 or 12 persons present; but it is stated before the Plymouth Election Committee, that there were 20 persons present amongst whom were Sir John Maxwell the candidate, Mr. John Beer and Mr. Henry Smith the agents, Dr. Butter, chairman of Mr. Mare's committee, Mr. Glencross, Admiral Morris, and several others, who took a very active part in the election proceedings for the boroughs of Devonport and Plymouth, is that so?—No, I do not think it is quite so; I do not believe there were any who took a part except those named.

4282. Those gentlemen were there who took an active part in the election proceedings for the boroughs of Plymouth and Devonport on the 23d?—Yes.

4283. Were you not aware that those gentlemen were actively engaged in the election?—Yes.

4284. Do you think it was consistent with your duty, as the Secretary of the Admiralty, to invite those who were the most prominent parties in electioneering tactics in those boroughs, to dine with you a few days previous to the election?—I do not think it was; I am sorry I did it.

 4285. *Chairman.*]

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4285. *Chairman.*] I think you said that you did not at that time know the strict regulations, by which the superintendents were bound, of Sir Francis Baring?—I had never heard those letters read. Permit me to explain with respect to these dinners; the dinners came to 48*l.* 15*s.*; I saw the bill that was in evidence; there were two dinners for that sum of money; at the first there were 17 people; on the next there were 19. The 17 on the first day consisted of Sir John Ommanney, Commodore Seymour, and all the captains of the vessels that were in harbour. I found the next day that I had unintentionally omitted some naval officers; there was not room for others whom I ought to have invited, and who would have felt a slight if I did not invite them also, therefore there was a second dinner, the dinner in question, at which were the officers of the "Black Eagle," several other officers who were in port at the time, and there were six other people.

4286. Had you ascertained whether or it was usual for the Secretary of the Admiralty to go down without any Board, and to give dinners of that kind?—I heard with some surprise, the statement of Mr. Hay. I ought to have inquired more particularly. But as to the first dinner, and the greater part of the second (as to which I have expressed my opinion that it was wrong in me to have done it), these names were put in without the least reference to politics. With all respect to the officers, it was a great inconvenience to myself to have those dinners.

4287. Sir *B. Hall.*] As regards the first?—As regards both dinners, the dinners were not given for these people; they were afterwards added; I think they ought not to have been.

4288. They were 11 or more?—I only make out six.

4289. There were Sir John Malcolm, Mr. John Beer, Mr. Henry Smith, Dr. Butter, Mr. Glencross, Admiral Morris?—I think it is hardly fair to say that I should not ask Admiral Morris, as being an old officer, without regard to his politics.

4290. *Chairman.*] He was an officer, whom you would naturally have asked to meet the Admiralty authorities?—Yes.

4291. At this time he happened unfortunately to be Chairman of an Election Committee, was he not?—I did not know that he was Chairman of the Committee.

4292. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears by the papers that he proposed Sir John Maxwell for the borough?—This was before the election.

4293. There was Mr. Triscott?—I think Mr. Triscott dined the first day.

4294. The second day?—Did he dine both days.

4295. Mr. Triscott says he saw these parties at the dinner?—He did.

4296. There was Mr. Triscott and Captain Walker?—Captain Walker comes within the description of a naval officer.

4297. Then there was another person, Mr. Church Ward?—He did not dine there.

4298. It was stated before the Plymouth Election Committee, that he dined there?—No, he could not have dined there without my knowledge; he certainly did not dine there.

4299. I do not want to press that further. Did you receive any persons on board the "Black Eagle," unconnected with the Government establishments?—Yes, there was a deputation came on board the "Black Eagle," but it was not in the least political; I believe there were all parties in it, and if the Committee will give me leave, I will read the propositions they made to me: "First, that a fair proportion of ships are not fitted out and paid off at this port. Remedy 1. That this port should share in this respect equal to Portsmouth. Complaint 2. That ships ordered home to be paid down or paid off, should first go to Portsmouth to receive orders, whereby all orders for clothing, &c., required by the officers and seaman, are given to tradesmen belonging to that port; consequently, the money spent by the officers and ship's company for necessary articles, returns to Portsmouth from every port where such ships may be paid off. Remedy 2. That when orders are sent from the Board of Admiralty for any ship to return from foreign service, orders should be likewise sent to what port in England that ship is to come to be paid down or paid off. This would not only benefit the port, but a great saving would be effected for the country. Complaint 3. That tradesmen are prohibited free access on board Her Majesty's ships, whereby the seamen belonging to Her Majesty's ships have not the choice of selecting their tradesmen, and by which means a fair competition

competion is prevented. Remedy 3. That such tradesmen should have access to Her Majesty's ships during the dinner-hour of the seamen, and on pay-day, as are known to the magistrates of the town to be of respectability and integrity, and subscribe to such rules as may be laid down by the Board of Admiralty for their guidance. Any infringement of such rules should be a forfeiture of the privilege granted." That is what they read. It had no reference to politics, and from what I understood, the majority of the people present at this deputation were of an adverse way of politics.

4300. *Chairman.*] That was a deputation coming to you upon subjects upon which the Lords of the Admiralty were good judges, respecting the question whether tradesmen should be allowed to go on board the ships of the navy?—Yes.

4301. On which you could have comparatively little information?—Yes, on which I gave them no answer, except that I would lay it before the Board.

4302. Does not that show the inconvenience of having gone by yourself rather than accompanied by the Board?—It seems to prove that I had better go there than no one.

4303. If you had not gone there, it might have been sent up to the Board?—Yes; but not amplified by the conversation.

4304. What did you do with that memorial when you got it; did you not take it to the Board?—Not before the Board; I showed it to some of the members of the Board, and talked over the matter with them.

4305. To whom was it addressed?—It has no address; it was brought in and presented to me as a text for speaking on, rather than anything else; I really did not know I had got it till I found it the other day.

4306. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears from the charges which have been made in the contingencies of the Admiralty, that you were at Plymouth previously to the month of June?—Yes.

4307. There has been a statement made in the Committee on the Plymouth Election Petition, which appears in the petition, that Mr. Mare became a candidate for the borough of Plymouth about the 5th of April, and a few days afterwards you went to Plymouth; is that the fact?—It may have been the fact; but I can truly declare that I had no more thought about Mr. Mare when I went down in the "Retribution," than there is in the "Retribution" now. It had been a favourite wish of mine to get a cruise in one of Her Majesty's vessels, and at Easter Admiral Parker gave me the "Retribution," at least, sent it for me to go to Devonport, without the least reference to politics whatever.

4308. It has been also stated before that Committee that Mr. Mare's committee was sitting in a room at the Royal Hotel, and that you yourself were in that committee-room; is that the fact, that you were at Mr. Mare's committee-room?—I do not know where Mr. Mare's committee-room was; to the best of my belief I was not there at all.

4309. Were you in the committee-room of General Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell?—Not at any time, to the best of my belief.

4310. Here is an account placed to the contingencies of the Admiralty of 58*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, for the account at Morshead's Royal Hotel, Fore-street, Devonport, during your visit in April 1852?—Yes.

4311. Now, were any of the partisans of the political parties present at those entertainments?—To the best of my belief, certainly not. I have not got the list of names, but I am as clear as I can be of anything of which I did not take a note, that they were not.

4312. It appears on the Minutes of Evidence, that Commodore Seymour stated that you walked round the dockyard a few days before the election took place, with the two Conservative candidates?—Yes.

4313. Is that true?—Yes.

4314. And that you stood at the door with the two Conservative candidates where the men are obliged to deposit their tickets, so that all the men in the yard must necessarily pass before you, when they went out of the yard?—I stood there, but it was with no political motive. I said in the House of Commons, in my place, and I repeat it again before this Committee, that it would have been better if I had not gone round the dockyard with the candidates, but I stood there simply to see what is one of the most curious things to be seen in the whole dockyard, the way in which the vast number of men take up their tickets; and I could

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could not understand how it could be politically of any use to the candidates; they saw three persons standing together, but they did not know me by sight.

4315. Does it not appear to you, on further consideration of the case, that the very fact of your standing there with the two Conservative candidates, your being Secretary of the Admiralty, might lead the parties to believe that they being the Conservative candidates, received your sanction for being members for the borough?—Certainly not. I concede to the Committee that my going round the dockyard with the candidates might have that complexion, but I do not consider, as far as I can judge, in the rapid manner in which these men passed through, and the great multitude that went on without looking one way or the other, that could have had the least effect on them. I am not attempting to go back from what I said in the House, that it would have been better not to have gone round the dockyard; but I cannot charge myself with having reference to anything but one of the most ingenious arrangements I ever saw.

4316. It appears, in the yard at Deptford, that you took the Conservative candidate and stood at the door of the yard, and saw the men pass you there when they delivered their tickets?—Yes, there was not a single man in the yard when I came; it was dinner-time.

4317. Why did you take the Conservative candidate and make him stand by you when the men passed by; could you not have seen that without the Conservative candidate, and sent him about his business?—Yes, but he was there at the time.

4318. Did you not go with him to the door of the yard?—Not for that purpose, neither does it seem to me to have produced that effect. If I had intended it to to have had that effect, I should have done it at Chatham also, where I did not do it.

4319. It appears from the evidence given yesterday by Captain Dundas, that you sent Mr. Rolt, the Conservative candidate, with whom you were in the yard, to his house, to request that he would go round the dockyard with you?—No, I think I said Colonel Green went up. When I went to the dockyard, it was my custom always to call on the superintendent first. The first place I went to in Chatham Dockyard was to Captain Richards' house, and he was not there. I quite agree with Commodore Seymour, and Captain Richards also, that it was by far the best plan for the captain-superintendent to go round the yard.

4320. Why did you take Mr. Rolt round the yard; and why did you take Sir John Maxwell and General Berkeley round the yard?—They wished to go round the yard with me.

4321. Did you go round the yard with everybody who asked you?—No; I was going round the yard, and they asked me to let them go with me.

4322. You knew at the time they were the candidates?—I did know they were the candidates, and I think it would have been better if they had not gone round with me.

4323. Captain Dundas stated, that you wrote to ask him to use his influence in favour of Mr. Rolt, the Conservative candidate, for the borough of Greenwich, in the yard over which he presided; is that so?—To the best of my remembrance I never wrote to Captain Dundas in my life. I cannot remember ever having written to him. I am extremely sorry, he stated, that he had destroyed the letter. It seems to me to be a course that he ought not to have taken. If he considered it a mere election hoax or a forgery, he ought to have sent to me and ascertained the fact; if he considered that the Secretary of the Admiralty was invoking the influence of the Superintendent of the Yard, he ought to have sent it to the First Lord of the Admiralty.

4324. You were understood to say you had no knowledge of that?—Not the least.

4325. Then the Committee are to understand, that so far as your memory serves you, you have no recollection of having written to Captain Dundas asking him to use his influence for Mr. Rolt, the Government candidate?—No recollection whatever. I asked Mr. Rolt yesterday if he ever asked me to write, or that I told him I had written, and he said, "Certainly not," to both questions.

4326. Therefore, you were very much surprised when you heard Captain Dundas make that statement?—Very much indeed.

4327. Sir *H. Davie.*] You do not recollect ever having written at all to Captain Dundas?—No, not at all; I think that Captain Dundas is one of the last persons I should have written to. I did not feel at all on intimate terms with him;

him; perhaps there was a little coldness between us. If I had been so indiscreet, or imprudent as to write to any one, he would have been the last person.

4328. This letter, which he supposed came from you, was not on anything like familiar terms, for it began with, "Mr. Stafford presents his compliments." I think he stated the letter was in that form?—I have not the slightest remembrance in the world of having written to him. I was very much surprised when I heard him state it, and very much annoyed when I heard that he burnt the letter. I might have verified my own writing; my writing is very peculiar, and might have been imitated; as far as I can judge now, it seems to me to have been some election hoax.

4329. *Chairman.*] With regard to your going round the dockyards with candidates, was it your belief at the time that former Secretaries of the Admiralty had gone round with candidates, and shown themselves as partisans at the time of the election?—No, I do not know that Secretaries had.

4330. You did not inquire into that?—No. May I be permitted to explain one point in Question 444, "Contrary to what he, Mr. Stafford, signed;" that is, the copy of a letter I have got is signed. "Before your grace," it stands in the copy of the letter from Admiral Parker to the Duke of Northumberland, which I have got. I signed nothing with regard to Cotsell, except the warrant for his appointment; but this was a proposition with regard to patronage, which I signed and took to the Duke for his approbation, and in it was, I believe, a clause proposing, in the event of certain appointments being given to me, that I would not do anything without regard to due consultation with the Surveyor of the Navy. That paper the Duke took from me and never gave back, and therefore I thought he did not approve of it. It related to certain matters of patronage which remained in his own hands.

4331. What was that document that you did sign. You did not sign the actual appointment of Cotsell, but you signed some general understanding with regard to the patronage of the Admiralty?—I made a proposition to the Duke as to the arrangement and allocation of the patronage, and I took it, with my signature to him, expecting that it might be signed by him and returned, but his Grace never did return it, nor did I ever see it till last month, then I asked him if he had got it, and he said, "here it is," and showed it to me.

4332. Can you state what was the general purport of that understanding you signed, regarding appointments?—It was very complicated, and regarded the clerks of Somerset House, and arrangements at the Admiralty, and a great number of things.

4333. From what Admiral Parker here states, it included also appointments in the dockyards?—I suppose it included all the appointments in the dockyards.

4334. Since you were bound by this obligation that you yourself had signed?—I did not consider it binding on him till his Grace had given me these appointments, which he never did.

4335. What appointments?—The appointments asked for in this paper. It was a voluminous paper, proposing a distinct and definite transfer of appointments to me on the part of his Grace. I gave it in, and said to the Duke, "I have signed that; if you will sign it, it will be satisfactory; it will be something definite between us."

4336. Do you say that this was a proposal on your part, to take some patronage, in addition to what you had?—Yes; that is to say, I did not know exactly and definitely what belonged to me or not.

4337. When was this paper put before his Grace?—I do not think there was any date; I cannot remember.

4338. Can you remember at all when you took it to the Duke?—No, I cannot.

4339. It must have been apparently before the 8th of October, because that is the time of Admiral Parker's letter?—Certainly, it was in May or June; I should think so.

4340. That you then brought under the consideration of the Duke of Northumberland the plan by which you were to have had additional patronage?—It was rather definining what the patronage was, than giving additional.

4341. Did it not refer to clerkships and other things?—I had some of them given to me; the Duke used to give them to me as single appointments. "You may have this vacancy, and you may have that," and it was in order to ascertain

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whether I was to have that as the general rule, which was given in individual cases. I rather think the master shipwright was in that also.

4342. The Duke said he kept the master shipwright that he might bestow it, because there was a certain grace in bestowing it from the head of the office?—The Duke said so then; he did not then give me the reason; he withheld his approval of the paper.

4343. As to the master shipwright?—I think the master shipwright was in it. There were a great number of appointments which I proposed to the Duke; as to certain situations, I believe there were situations he would not confirm without the consent of the Surveyor.

4344. That might lead his Grace to suppose that in all cases you would consult with the Surveyor of the Navy?—No, because he had not appoved of it.

4345. It was a paper signed by you on a certain system which you proposed?—On certain conditions, which were not acceded to.

4346. Did you conceive that your consultation then with the Surveyor of the Navy depended on his Grace acceding to those conditions?—No, the submissions of the Surveyor of the Navy was going on at the time.

4347. The Duke stated in his evidence, that he supposed you were continually and constantly in the habit of consulting with the Surveyor of the Navy upon all promotions; now, as far as the Committee have been able to make out, it appears to them that you were not in the habit of constant consultation?—Not in the habit of constant consultation.

4348. The Duke was in error in supposing that harmony between you and the Surveyor's office existed?—I do not think there was any discord between the office and myself; there was not on my part.

4349. There was not a free intercourse in consultation?—The Surveyor was not consulted on every appointment I have made, certainly.

4350. Lord *Hotham*.] Is it not the case that at one time the Secretary had the whole of the patronage of the Admiralty at Whitehall?—It varies so much; there is no definite rule laid down; it is all matter of tradition.

4351. It is not many years since, that all the clerks of the Admiralty were considered clerks of the Secretary, and appointed by him?—I believe so.

4352. *Chairman*.] In regard generally to official patronage, do you suppose that the head of the department has not the right to the patronage, if he chooses to exercise that right?—The First Lord.

4353. Yes?—Certainly; not the least doubt.

4354. The First Lord has, in the first instance, the whole patronage, and may take what part he chooses; is it not so?—Theoretically it is. I do no think practically it is quite so; I think there are several departments which are given to the different Lords of the Admiralty, the Lords of the Board, and the Secretary.

4355. Practically he distributes, because it would be a great labour to look through all the persons fit for the promotions and advancements?—Yes.

4356. He is generally responsible for it, and he can, if he chooses, take any share of it that he pleases?—My notion is, that the Board arrange their own patronage, not that the First Lord has the absolute power over all patronage; the theory is, that the Board at their first meeting so arrange it.

4357. If a wrong appointment is made, do you not consider that the First Lord is, to a certain extent, responsible afterwards for that appointment?—No, I consider that the Board is responsible for every appointment.

4358. And not the First Lord in any degree?—I cannot separate the First Lord from the Board; the Board acts in a corporate capacity; it is impossible to separate one member of it from another.

4359. You do not attach greater responsibility to the First Lord than to the Board?—No, I think scarcely; certainly not at all in theory.

4360. Lord *Hotham*.] You are not aware whether, up to a period not very far distant, the whole of the clerkships in the Admiralty Office, Whitehall, were considered in the patronage of the Secretary?—No, I think they were not during the few previous years.

4361. I am not speaking during your time?—No; during the previous time, it seems that Mr. Croker was the most powerful Secretary at the Admiralty, and he had the patronage.

4362. During his time?—I believe it was in his time.

4363. *Chairman*.] Did not Mr. Croker on one occasion take a vessel by his own

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own order?—The legend is, that Mr. Croker was saluted, and he was afterwards compelled to write a letter of censure to the captain who saluted him.

4364. Was the Surveyor consulted by you on any promotion after April 1852?—I do not remember that he was.

4365. Are you aware that he was consulted by you on any promotion after April 1852?—I could not say he was not, at the same time I could not say he was.

4366. You have heard the Duke state that he imagined there was a perfect harmony between you and the Surveyor, and that you were in the habit of consulting him on all promotions?—I did not know that the Duke thought so. I thought, after the letter of the 10th of May, when the Surveyor made no further complaints, that the thing was arranged to his satisfaction.

4367. The Duke thought that every thing was settled to his satisfaction after the 10th of May?—I could not tell what the Duke's thoughts were. I never heard any more of complaints on the part of the Surveyor.

4368. The Duke said, "I expected that the Secretary and Surveyor would meet, on all occasions, on amicable terms, and know everything that was going on of the kind." Now, that shows that the Duke thought you were, in regard to these submissions; the question is in reference to submissions; consulting habitually with the Surveyor of the Navy?—Then, I suppose the Duke's impression must have been from the statement made by the Surveyor; that is, not the particular consultations, but, on the whole, the thing was working satisfactorily.

4369. Did your conversations with the Duke not lead him to know the actual fact, namely, that you had not consulted the Surveyor on any promotion after April 1852?—I do not think I named the dockyard appointments once to the Duke.

Captain *Dundas*, called in; and further Examined.

Captain *Dundas*.

4370. Sir *B. Hall.*] YOU stated, yesterday, in answer to a question which, I believe, I put to you, that you had received a letter from Mr. Stafford, then Secretary of the Admiralty, requesting you to use your influence, or words to that effect, in favour of Mr. Rolt, the Conservative candidate for the borough of Greenwich?—I stated that it was not a letter; it was a note, presenting a gentleman's compliments, and that gentleman was Mr. Stafford; presenting Mr. Stafford's compliments. The question put to me was, whether I had received a communication; not a letter. It was a note, presenting Mr. Stafford's compliments; the precise terms it is impossible for me to repeat now, but it conveyed a general impression; whether the word was "legally" or "conveniently," I cannot say; but, generally, it was a wish that I should give what assistance I could to Mr. Rolt.

4371. Lord *Hotham.*] He was the Government candidate?—Yes.

4372. Sir *B. Hall.*] Was it a written note?—Yes, a written note; with Mr. Stafford's compliments.

4373. Who delivered that note to you?—I found it on my table, with other official letters.

4374. It has been stated by Mr. Stafford to-day, that he had not written any note of the kind to you; but putting the word "note" on one side, did you receive any communication in Mr. Stafford's handwriting, requesting you to use your influence in favour of Mr. Rolt?—To use my influence; I will not say that is the expression; but that I was to give Mr. Rolt such assistance as I conveniently could. It is impossible for me to state the precise words, but I did receive a note presenting Mr. Stafford's compliments, alluding to no other subject; and I was sufficiently acquainted with his handwriting to know that it was his note.

4375. Sir *H. Davie.*] Was there an official seal to the letter?—I cannot say; it was a private letter.

4376. *Chairman.*] You had no doubt at the time that it was a note sent to you by Mr. Stafford?—None whatever.

4377. Sir *B. Hall.*] Now, it was stated not quite in answer to the question, but a comment was made by Mr. Stafford to this effect, that if you had received any communication and believed it was a hoax, you ought to have communicated to him; and if you had received any communication of that character, believing that it came from Mr. Stafford, he considered it would have been your duty to communicate with the First Lord on the subject. Did you make any communi-

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cation to anybody, or did you speak of the contents of that document to anybody, either verbally or in writing, excepting to the person to whom you alluded yesterday?—I am not certain that I mentioned it at all, even to the person to whom I alluded yesterday. I think, to the best of my recollection, it was sometime afterwards, as I said I saw how things were going; and having been connected with that officer some time, necessarily as the chief officer under me in the yard, I had some confidential communication occasionally with him; and with respect to some things that were passing, I said, "It is of no use; I may tell you I did receive a communication from Mr. Stafford," and I think I told him about it. Since that, and since these proceedings have been going on, I have, to private friends, mentioned that I had received a note of that sort. I did not mention it for a long time at all. As these transactions came out, when I most certainly knew that I should be called on to state it, it was of little use mincing it to my private friends.

4378. Sir *H. Davie.*] Did it never occur to your mind that it was an electioneering hoax?—No. If I could in anyway say it, I should be most happy to acquit Mr. Stafford of it. If I had a doubt or hesitation, I would not have mentioned it to the Committee; but I did not feel the slightest doubt, nor do I now. Mr. Stafford must know that I can have no motive for injuring him.

Mr. *Stafford.*] I can only repeat to this Committee that I entirely fail to remember having written such a letter. I cannot in the least remember it. It seems to me utterly alien to my usual practice; and, as the letter is destroyed, it must rest there. I do not of course assume that Captain Dundas has said he received a letter from me when he has not; but the only explanation I can give is, that it must be that which he thinks it was not. I can only deplore that he did not keep the letter. Of course I should have known my own handwriting, although others may take a forgery for it; it would be impossible to pass a forgery on me.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, called in; and further Examined.

Sir *B. Walker.*

4379. *Chairman.*] WILL you mention the heads upon which you wish some further questions put to you?—There are some statements upon four questions which I wish to have an opportunity of explaining to the Committee.

4380. Refer to the question?—The first is 1621.

4381. That is a question put to Mr. Grant, in which I asked him, "Was it of your own notion that you thought you would make those inquiries" (that is, the inquiries as to vacancies); "or were you directed by Mr. Stafford to inquire?" and the answer was, "I was not directed by him to inquire; I knew that he felt inconvenience on the subject, and I thought it a good opportunity to clear the matter up."—Also, in the same answer, it is denied that Mr. Grant delivered the message he did to me.

4382. That was on a former day?—Yes. I wish to state to the Committee that Mr. Grant did deliver the message that I have already repeated to the Committee, that he was sent by Mr. Stafford; and I hope I am borne out in that assertion by the answer which I gave, which was heard by Mr. Eden.

4383. The answer was, that Mr. Eden was present, and heard the conversation?—Yes, heard the answer which I gave to Mr. Grant.

4384. Mr. Grant said, "My impression is, that the Surveyor then said, that he trusted the system then in force was not about to be altered, as he thought it worked very well, and he hoped that no system of jobbing was about to be recurred to;" those are very much like the words that Mr. Eden heard?—No; I think there is a great difference.

4385. State what the difference is?—Mr. Eden's statement is, that as Mr. Stafford's political friends were dissatisfied, he wished to advance two men into the vacancies of foreman and inspector at Devonport, and begged I would not submit the names, as he wished to serve two of their party.

4386. Lord *Hotham.*] Who said that?—That was the purport of the message I received; and my answer that Mr. Eden heard that I had been upwards of four years in the department, that I had never allowed political motives to influence my submissions to the Board, in reference to the promotions in the dockyard, and that I was not going to commence jobbing for Mr. Stafford, or anybody else; that answer Mr. Eden has already stated before the Committee, that he heard.

4387. *Chairman.*]

4387. *Chairman.*] That is answer to Question 3261?—Yes. "Sir Baldwin Walker said, in my presence, to Mr. Grant, who was the bearer of a message from Mr. Stafford, respecting some promotions in Devonport Dockyard; that he could not for a moment entertain the proposition made to him, as during the period he had been in office, upwards of four years, he had never in any way been influenced by political motives in making his submissions with respect to promotions in the dockyard; and he would not commence jobbing for Mr. Stafford, or any one else; requesting at the same time that a proposition of that nature might never be again named to him, as he never went to the right or to the left, or words to that effect."

4388. That was Mr. Eden's view of your answer?—Yes.

4389. Now will you go to your next point?—The next point is with reference to Mr. Stafford's statement on the 2d of May, No. 3, in answer to Question 1239; the part is that in which Mr. Stafford states, "He returned to me in my office in a state of considerable excitement, with a draft of the letter in his hand. I read it; I proposed to him to write it, that I might bring it before the Board; he declined, and said he should prefer sending it from Somerset House." Now I most solemnly declare that I had nothing in my hand beyond this letter, which is a letter I wrote on the 27th of November, enclosing the copies. These are the original copies I now have in my hand. I never drew out any draft of the letter. The fact is, I saw Mr. Stafford go into his room as I came out from the Duke of Northumberland; and I think I am borne out in the statement, if the Committee will refer to Captain Milne. Mr. Stafford says this took place about 11 o'clock. If the Committee will refer to Captain Milne, he will inform them that the draft of that letter was written near one o'clock, in my room at Somerset House, and written by Captain Milne.

4390. Captain Milne, in answer to a question I asked, answered, "I certainly, by my influence with Sir Baldwin Walker, got him to withdraw the copies of those letters, and that is the reason that copies were not sent." Now the draft of that letter is a draft of the letter written, which was to be sent without the copies of the letters?—Yes; that is what Mr. Stafford stated.

4391. You agreed finally to the draft of a letter which was sent without the copies of the letters?—I did eventually; not in the first instance; after Captain Milne came to me, I did not give in the point about sending the copies of the letters, but I merely explained that I had been informed since my letter of the 26th or 25th, that my letter had not been brought before the Board; the letter I had delivered to Admiral Parker; but I enclosed the copies; and I took that letter, with the copies, and placed it in the hands of Mr. Stafford, in the Admiralty, and Mr. Stafford expressed his astonishment at finding the copies were enclosed, as Captain Milne led him to believe that I was not going to send them in. After that, I saw Captain Milne, and asked him why he had led Mr. Stafford to believe that I should not send the copies in; and it was at that interview that Captain Milne begged of me not to forward them, stating, at the same time, it was of no use raking up an affair that had passed over several months.

4392. Do you remember the date of that?—Yes, the 29th of November.

4393. Captain Milne stated, in answer to a question that was asked him, "Did Mr. Stafford request you to mediate in the matter?—A. Yes. Q. With a view of inducing Sir Baldwin Walker to withhold the correspondence?—A. Yes. So many months had elapsed that the thing had, I presumed, blown over; and I thought it a pity that all this had been raked up again, and I acted with a perfectly friendly view and a friendly intention." Do you agree with Captain Milne's representation of the matter in those two questions?—Quite; that was my view. I only wish to state, that I had not the draft of the letter in my hand when Mr. Stafford mentioned I had, at 11 in the morning; because the draft of that letter was not written till near one o'clock, at Somerset House. Mr. Grant was brought forward to prove that I had the draft of that letter in my hand.

4394. Your evidence given here rather led to the impression that you, as soon as you left the Duke of Northumberland, on Monday the 29th of November, went straight from the Admiralty to Somerset House?—Yes.

4395. Did you first see Mr. Stafford?—When I came out of the Duke of Northumberland's room, going along the passage by the staircase, I saw Mr. Stafford in the passage, and I went into the room with him, but I was not there five minutes.

4396. In your first day's evidence, page 4, you stated that you had a

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conversation with the Duke of Northumberland: "About this time Admiral Parker entered the room, and I expressed to him my surprise at hearing his Grace state that he had not seen or heard of the letter tendering my resignation; on which Admiral Parker reminded the Duke that he had put the letter into his hand. The Admiral then informed me that he had been thinking the matter over since I left him, and that he did not think my letter had been brought before the Board, and that he had an impression that it had been destroyed. I immediately left the Admiralty, and went to Somerset House, taking the letter and copies back with me, and feeling much hurt and annoyed"?—Yes.

4397. It was between those two that there was the interval that you have mentioned, namely, that you met Mr. Stafford, and that you went with him into his room?—Yes; the only thing I mentioned on that occasion was my astonishment that I had not been told before that my letter had not been brought before the Board. I do not think anything beyond that passed.

4398. You did go into Mr. Stafford's room, but you think nothing more passed than what you have now stated?—No; there was no draft of the letter, or anything of the sort. The draft of that letter was written at Somerset House, an hour and a half or two hours afterwards, and written by Captain Milne. When he came to me, I said, I felt so hurt and annoyed by the way I had been treated, that I was quite indifferent whether I sent in the letter or not. I have also another painful part with reference to the statement made here the day before yesterday, by the Duke of Northumberland, in answer to Question 3136.

4399. I asked the Duke this, "After that interview, on the 26th, was another circular submitted to your Grace for your approbation?" To which the Duke answered, "I sent for Mr. Stafford, and told him the circumstance, and all that Admiral Hyde Parker had told me; and I said that it was considered by the Surveyor that this cancelling of the minute had cast a stigma upon the Surveyor, and I was very much afraid that he would resign his office; and that if he did resign his office, I said to Mr. Stafford, who treated it rather lightly, 'It is much more serious than you seem to think, for if he resigns his office, I may not find a successor;' meaning that he did his duty for the good of the service, and that I did not think it would be for the good of the service that he should go away. Upon that, Mr. Stafford went into Admiral Hyde Parker's room, where the whole circumstances, I believe, took place about the minute that was agreed to; but, at the end of about half an hour, they came into my room, Sir Baldwin Walker and Admiral Hyde Parker together. Sir Baldwin Walker then explained to me, feeling very much annoyed as to the matter, very much in the same words that had been used before, that it was an imputation upon his character, and he felt it as a censure, all of which I wished to remove from his mind, as I did not think that any officer should feel so on any subject unmeritedly. After a few moments, Mr. Stafford came in with a written minute. He read it to Sir Baldwin Walker and Admiral Hyde Parker, at my table, in my room. Sir Baldwin Walker, when it was read, said, 'I am perfectly satisfied;' and Mr. Stafford answered, 'It shall be read to-day, at the Board, as a minute,' and then they all went away"?—It is the last part of that, with reference to the interview, I regret the Duke is greatly mistaken, because such an interview never took place. I positively deny that that interview which is stated in this answer ever took place.

4400. On the 26th?—On any day.

4401. He gives the date; he speaks of the second circular as being submitted to him at that interview?—Yes.

4402. That was the circular which was issued on the 26th?—Yes.

4403. Therefore, the latest day on which the interview could have taken place, if it took place at all, was the 26th of April?—Yes.

4404. If it was an interview previous to the sanction of the circular?—Quite so.

4405. Had you no interview with the Duke on the 26th of April?—I have not the slightest recollection of having had an interview with the Duke, Admiral Parker, and Mr. Stafford, on that circular at all. I had an interview with Admiral Parker, but I never stated to the Duke that I was satisfied in any way; and the only time that the Duke ever spoke to me on the subject of my letter was between the delivery and the circular being issued. When I went into his room, he stated to me, "I know all about your letter; Admiral Parker has told

me

me all about it; remain perfectly quiet, and everything shall be set right." That was the only time I ever had to do with the Duke on the subject.

4406. And that was after your letter of the 10th of May?—No; it was after my letter of the 21st of April.

4407. That you had an interview with the Duke?—Yes.

4408. Can you remember when the interview was?—I cannot be positive as to the day; it was between the day of the delivery and the issuing of that circular; between the 22d and 26th; I cannot be positive as to the day.

4409. That brings it to two days, between the 22d and the 26th?—And it could not have been on the morning of the 26th.

4410. Then it must have been on the 23d, the 24th, or the 25th?—Yes; but the 25th was Sunday, and it was not likely to be on that day.

4411. Then there are only two days left, the 23d and the 24th; it must have been on one of those two days?—Yes; there is a little difference about the date of the interview; some have the impression that it was on the 26th, but my impression is that it was on the 23d.

4412. It is very likely, as such a time has elapsed since then, more than a year, that you cannot remember the exact day. Has the exact day an important bearing, that you wish to bring it before the Committee?—I do not wish it. I merely mention that it was between those days.

4413. I thought you said you were particularly hurt about this point?—I feel hurt about the Duke stating that this meeting took place, and that I felt myself perfectly satisfied; when I have not the most distant idea of such a meeting at all, or of ever having expressed myself in those terms.

4414. But you had expressed yourself to Admiral Parker as satisfied, as regarded the imputation on your character?—Yes.

4415. Therefore, as regarded one part of the minute, namely, the personal part of it, you have been satisfied?—Yes, as far as clearing my character.

4416. But as regarded the interests of the public service, you were not satisfied?—No.

4417. Is that what the Committee are to understand?—Yes; and what I have stated already before the Committee.

4418. Is there any other point which the Committee have passed over that you wish to bring to their notice?—There is another thing I ought to mention, in justice to Admiral Parker, with reference to Question 3255.

4419. I asked the Duke, "Do you think that Admiral Hyde Parker's recollection is not clear as to those details? Yes." That is a question relating to the interview, and the circumstances that occurred in November?—Yes. Before I proceed to that, perhaps I might explain as to the interview that took place when Mr. Stafford was present in Admiral Parker's room. I met Admiral Parker in the passage, coming out of the Duke of Northumberland's room; he had in his hand my letter, tendering my resignation, and he asked me if I had any objection to meet Mr. Stafford.

4420. He said this in November?—No. Before I proceed as to November, I think I should make this statement.

4421. With reference to the 24th April, or whatever the day was?—Yes. I met Admiral Parker by the Duke of Northumberland's door, in the passage, with the letter that I had written, tendering my resignation, and Admiral Parker was just coming out of the room. He said, "Have you any objection to meet Mr. Stafford on the subject of this letter in my room?" I told him I had not. I think in justice to Admiral Parker I ought to mention that circumstance, because it has been stated that he did not take any steps about the letter. Then there is this Question 3255.

4422. That was a question referring to the occurrences that took place on the 23d of November, or thereabouts?—Yes, it was on the 29th of November, not the 23d. The Duke states, "Sir Baldwin Walker came to me to ask about that letter," that was the letter tendering my resignation; "when I told him that I did not know of its existence, and that I had not seen it, or read it. He said that Admiral Hyde Parker came into the room, which is true, and that he said to Admiral Hyde Parker, 'How is it that the Duke has not seen this letter?' And Sir Baldwin Walker says, that Admiral Hyde Parker's reply was, that he had given it to me. I certainly do not remember that, but I do recollect that Admiral Hyde Parker said to Sir Baldwin Walker, 'Sir Baldwin, when you gave that letter to me, you told me you would trust to my judgment and abide by my decision;

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sion; on consideration I destroyed that letter, and you have no right to ask me about it now.'" Now, I declare that Admiral Parker never made use of any of those expressions. I had before asked Admiral Parker whether he recollected the circumstance of having brought my letter forward. He said it was brought forward; but he said, "Before you send in the copy, I advise you to see the Duke of Northumberland." I went to the Duke, and after the conversation which took place, which I have already stated to the Committee, Admiral Parker entered the room, and I expressed my astonishment at the Duke telling me that he had never seen or heard of my letter; upon which Admiral Parker said, "I put the letter into your Grace's hands;" and he turned round to me, and said, "I have been thinking the thing over since you left, and I recollect that your letter was not brought before the Board, and my impression is, that it was destroyed."

4423. Lord *Hotham.*] Whose impression?—Admiral Parker's. I now repeat what Admiral Parker told me in the presence of the Duke of Northumberland, and beyond that, there was nothing else stated while I was in the room.

4424. *Chairman.*] The matter of fact is, that you had given that letter to Admiral Parker; was it an open letter, not sealed when you gave it to him, the letter tendering your resignation?—It was in an envelope, addressed "To the Secretary of the Admiralty, on Her Majesty's Service."

4425. Not sealed?—I do not think it was.

4426. Admiral Parker stated that he took it out of its envelope, and gave it to the Duke?—Yes.

4427. The letter was given him in an unsealed envelope?—Yes, it was unsealed, because I read the letter to Admiral Parker. I told him I felt it right, being so immediately connected with my department, that I should read a letter to him, which I had written, addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

4428. Might not Admiral Parker fairly imagine, when a letter was given to him unsealed, that he had some discretion as to delivering that letter or not, or as to what he should do with that letter?—Pardon me; if you refer to my evidence, you will find I stated that before I sent the letter officially in, I felt it due to Admiral Parker to read the letter to him; that I entered the room, and read the letter to him, and he took the letter from me, and said he would bring it before the Board. Admiral Parker said he would bring it before the Duke of Northumberland and the Board. My impression is, that when he took the letter from me, Admiral Parker stated that he would bring it before the Board. I should have been wanting in courtesy if I had not taken the steps I did. But the letter was addressed in an envelope, "To the Secretary of the Admiralty, on Her Majesty's service."

4429. Lord *Hotham.*] Did you consider his taking it as tantamount to an official delivery?—Yes.

4430. Mr. *Beckett.*] The Committee have been led to believe that you delivered this letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty. When you left it in Admiral Parker's hands, you left it with him, thinking he might use his own discretion as to presenting it or not?—I never led the Committee to believe that. With reference to clearing my character, that part was mooted, not with reference to bringing it before the Board, or any discretionary power whatever.

4431. Sir *B. Hall.*] Your full impression was that that letter would be laid before the Board as a *bonâ fide* tender of resignation?—Certainly.

4432. *Chairman.*] Was your letter of the 26th of November given to Admiral Parker in any way?—The 27th of November; I had this letter in my hand when I went into the room. My impression is that I opened the letter, and I said I have got the letter. I had this envelope in my hand. I am not positive, as the seal is on it, whether it was sealed afterwards or not; but I had this envelope in my hand.

4433. When you went in to Admiral Parker?—Yes; on that day I went from Mr. Stafford to Admiral Parker.

4434. Your letter of the 21st of April, tendering your resignation, was sent to the Admiralty through Admiral Parker?—It was taken from me by Admiral Parker.

4435. Your letters in November were not transmitted through Admiral Parker?—No further than that I went to Admiral Parker before I delivered in the copies, which I have already stated.

4436. Here is a letter of yours of the 25th of November 1852, and another on the

the 26th of November 1852; the answer is on the 26th, and your letter is on the 25th: "Having observed in the public papers that the Secretary of the Admiralty is reported to have stated in the House of Commons, in reply to certain questions, that there was no correspondence with the Surveyor, I desire you to call the attention of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to letters from me." When you wrote that on the 25th of November did you give that letter to Admiral Parker?—Certainly not; it was not referring to any personal thing; I sent it in the usual way.

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Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of the House; further Examined.

4437. *Chairman.*] THERE is a sailing order of June the 19th, to Commodore Eden, which is in this form. "Sir,—I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their directions to you to order the 'Black Eagle' to repair forthwith to Plymouth;" when Commodore Eden received that letter, was there any means of knowing that that is absolutely by the Secretary of the Admiralty, or with the sanction of the Lords?—That is not what I wanted; what I wanted sent for was the minute on which that is founded; the sailing orders of the "Black Eagle" are in the province of the First Naval Lord.

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4438. You could not, of your own authority, write in that style, and order the "Black Eagle" round to Portsmouth?—I think not; it ought to be Admiral Parker.

4439. Admiral Parker ought to have initialed some paper?—Yes.

4440. Look at that, and see if that is the paper initialed (*handing document*)?—Yes.

4441. "June 19th, 1852. Commodore Eden to order the "Black Eagle" to be at Portsmouth on Monday afternoon. *H. P.*"?—That is it.

4442. Is that an order from the First Naval Lord to authorise you to send that letter?—Yes.

4443. And without it you would not have had that authority?—No authority.

4444. Lord *Hotham.*] That is a full and complete authority?—Yes.

4445. *Chairman.*] Is there any other witness that you wish to examine?—The Committee have gone into the practices of the late Board of Admiralty, but no other Boards.

4446. I called your attention to the statement which you made in the House of Commons, respecting the Administration of Sir Francis Baring, when Mr. Parker was Secretary of the Admiralty; and I asked you whether there were any witnesses who would serve to elucidate the statement you made, with respect to the practice as to patronage during that time, and I could not obtain from you that there were any persons that we could call who would substantiate your views upon that subject?—I did not understand the question in that way. I thought that any charges against former Boards, or any inquiries into their conduct, would come subsequently to this; I thought you meant whether I could bring any people to show what passed before I became Secretary.

4447. I wished to give you every opportunity of substantiating that statement. The general impression you gave to the House of Commons was, I believe, that while Sir Francis Baring was First Lord, and Mr. Parker Secretary, that there had been a laxity of practice; and that a system of jobbing had crept into the Administration of the Admiralty, and you read some letters which, although they were anonymous, were supposed to rest on some evidence which you had obtained. Have you any evidence, or can you put the Committee in the way of getting that evidence, upon the subject?—The evidence upon that subject is extremely difficult to get.

4448. You have had every advantage, having been Secretary to the Admiralty afterwards; all persons who have been injured by the former Board, when a new Board comes in, always bring their cases before it. In every department of the Government that I have been in, and I have been in not a few, I never went into any but I have had all the grievances of the former Administration come before me. You had the complaints and hardships, no doubt, of those persons who were passed over by the former Board before you?—Yes.

4449. And you would have the means of making an inquiry, and seeing whether there had been any political jobbing before?—Those would be the last persons to come forward now.

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4450. But they might have given you the information?—But when they gave me the information, I remedied it as far as I could, and destroyed the letters.

4451. But you have given no case of injury, or the remedy?—It was the request of those persons that I should not; they are very much afraid of personal consequences.

4452. Can you point out anything by which we could get that information?—Not without their consent.

4453. Although we are anxious to inquire and ascertain whether there was jobbing during Sir Francis Baring's administration of the Admiralty, it must rest on these anonymous letters?—I could bring forward some evidence, if you choose. So thoroughly did I think you would not go into that till afterwards, that I have not arranged anything.

4454. If you can substantiate your statement in the House of Commons in that respect, I am anxious that we should go into it?—Perhaps you will give me till to-morrow to arrange. I will consult with the other members of the Board.

4455. Will Friday suit you as well?—Perhaps we might give an answer to-morrow.

4456. Sir *B. Hall.*] You remember the notice which I gave to the House of Commons to this effect generally: "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the circumstances under which a circular sent to the Superintendents of Her Majesty's dockyards, dated 26th September 1849, was cancelled on the 19th day of April 1852, without any order or minute of the Board; also to inquire into the circumstances under which a letter addressed by Sir Baldwin Walker to Mr. Stafford, as Secretary to the Admiralty, in which letter Sir Baldwin Walker tendered his resignation as Surveyor of the Navy, was withheld from the Board; also into the circumstances connected with the appointment of Mr. James Wells, as master smith in the dockyard at Portsmouth, the subsequent cancelling thereof, and the appointment of Mr. George Cotsell in his stead; and generally into the exercise of the influence and patronage of the Admiralty in the dockyards and Government departments connected with the several Parliamentary boroughs." That is how it stands. I added these words: "since the 19th of April, 1852; at which date a circular was issued from the Admiralty, signed by the Secretary, cancelling their Lordships' order of the 26th of September 1849, which directs, 'that all reports and correspondence on the subject of vacancies, promotions, or changes of the officers and workmen in the dockyards, shall be forwarded through the Surveyor's department,' and ordering that 'in future such reports and correspondence be transmitted direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty.'" At the suggestion of Sir Frederic Thesiger, in which I acquiesced immediately, I struck out those words, because you in your speech had made the statement which has been alluded to by the Chairman. Having struck out those words, and having made the motion conformable to the views of Sir Frederic Thesiger, cannot you state to the Committee whether you would like to go into the proceedings of any previous Administrations, in order to substantiate the statements and charges which were made in the House of Commons?—I would rather, as the Chairman has given me permission, not answer that question till to-morrow.

4457. You will be able to-morrow to give us, if you do go into it, some notion of the course of inquiry you wish for, that we may have the witnesses summoned?—Yes.

Captain the Hon. *Arthur Duncombe*, a Member of the House, further Examined.

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4458. *Chairman.*] YOU signed the appointment of Cotsell early in October last year?—His acting warrant.

4459. Before you signed that, were the circumstances connected with the appointment brought under your notice?—They were.

4460. You have heard in this room a great deal of evidence respecting the appointment of Wells, and a man from the private trade, and other points; all those were brought under your consideration?—They were.

4461. Did you concur in the view of the Secretary, that the appointment of Wells by Admiral Parker was irregularly made?—Certainly. I may say, upon the question being first mooted by the Secretary to me, individually, as to the appointment of Cotsell, that I think I saw on his table a minute of Admiral Parker's, or, at least, a submission sent to Admiral Parker, initialed by him, approving

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approving of the appointment of Wells from the private trade; but as I was perfectly well aware that Admiral Parker had no more power to appoint a master smith at Portsmouth than I had to order the Fleet to sea, I did not pay much attention to that. Moreover, as it was an appointment from the private trade, on which I knew the majority of the members of the late Board of Admiralty held a very strong opinion, without calling on the Surveyor to make an official report, that no individuals of Her Majesty's dockyard were capable of filling that situation, they would not have consented to the appointment from the private trade to the detriment and injustice of the old dockyard servants. It was upon that feeling, and knowing that Wells had received no appointment whatever, that I did not hesitate, in the usual way, to put my name to Cotsell's acting warrant. The Committee probably are, by this time, aware that it was necessary for all officers of the dockyard to have a warrant which must be signed by two Lords of the Admiralty, and countersigned by the Secretary, in the same way that commissions of officers to ships are signed by two Lords of the Admiralty, and countersigned by the Secretary.

4462. You stated that the Board of Admiralty had a very strong opinion upon the subject of taking men from the private trade?—I think I said the majority.

4463. Was that subject brought under discussion at the Board?—Never.

4464. Then it was only from private communications with them that you knew it?—Exactly so, in talking matters over from time to time; and therefore it was that I felt very much astonished at seeing, upon two occasions, the Surveyor allude to the decision of the Board as to selecting a man from the private trade, because I knew there was no decision of that sort at all. I do not state that with respect to any charge against the Surveyor; it was, I think, the common course of events, arising from the frequent communications he had in private with Admiral Parker in his room. Upon those occasions, Admiral Parker, doubtless, at various times gave him instructions upon which he acted, and which he had every reason to suppose were the decisions of the Board.

4465. The Duke of Northumberland has told us that he considered it very desirable to know what was going on in private yards, and all improvements that were taking place; and for that purpose he said, in answer to Question 3204, "I sent a committee round to look at what was doing in the yards; my object was to bring to the knowledge of the Surveyor all that was doing in the private yards; and if there was any great improvement, as I believe there was, in the private yard, it should be brought to the notice of Somerset House; and I should have expected that that committee would be the legitimate means of bringing forward anything that was new, and also they might have the means of recommending men from the private trade." It would seem that the Duke of Northumberland took a different view from that taken by the majority of the Board, and actually sent a committee round to examine into the improvements, and be the means of recommending men from the private trade?—I do not subscribe to that conclusion; but I may say that when that committee was constituted and sent from London, I rather think I was at the time on leave; at all events, that committee, from some informality or another, did not prosecute its inquiries, and made no report whatever, I believe.

4466. Where was that committee sent to?—I think it went to Glasgow and to Liverpool; I do not know whether it went to any other port or not.

4467. You did not know that the Duke, in sending forward that committee, had two objects in view; first, the legitimate means of bringing forward anything that was new; secondly, recommending men from the private trade?—To tell the truth, from a conversation I had had privately with the Duke, I thought it had more reference to arming the Post-office vessels.

4468. You take a different view of that committee from what the Duke has stated here?—If those were the objects, I do.

4469. How did you know that Wells had not received any appointment in October, when you signed the other?—The Secretary told me that he had received no warrant and no official appointment whatever.

4470. It was on the statement of the Secretary?—Yes.

4471. Were you aware, then, that letters had gone to the Surveyor of the Navy, to the Accountant-general, and to the superintendent of the dockyard?—No, I was not; but if I had been, it would not have altered my opinion; they no more constitute an appointment to Wells than if there had been no such thing in existence.

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4472. It would not have altered your opinion if you had known that that correspondence had taken place?—No, certainly not.

4473. Did you know that the man was actually at Portsmouth?—No; I do not believe he was at that time.

4474. Did you see Admiral Parker before you superseded the appointment that he had made somewhat irregularly?—I do not conceive that I did supersede any appointment of Admiral Parker's whatever.

4475. Admiral Parker had named him irregularly?—I did not see the submission of the Surveyor's; but my impression is that it was not an appointment of Wells, but a sanction to a selection from the private trade; that is my impression.

4476. Did you not, as a member of the same Board, out of courtesy, before you set aside this decision of Admiral Parker's, see him on the subject?—I think Admiral Parker went away upon leave at that time. I know the Duke of Northumberland returned about that time, and Admiral Parker left a day or two before or a day or two after, I will not be certain which.

4477. Were the Surveyor's communications with Admiral Parker at the Admiralty considered private at all?—Certainly, so far as the Board were concerned, unless Admiral Parker, in his discretion, brought the matters before the Board.

4478. They were considered private?—I perhaps may inform the Committee that Captain Milne and Mr. Briggs both rather touched on those points with respect to the distribution of the offices of the Admiralty, and the way in which the business was conducted. It was the custom for the Board to go once a week to Somerset House, and hold a Board and receive reports from the officers there. Admiral Parker, from his infirmity, never went there at all; consequently it obliged the Surveyor to have more frequent communications with Admiral Parker in his private room than perhaps would otherwise have been the case, and of course it was in Admiral Parker's power to bring any subject before the Board if he thought it necessary to do so; therefore, I conceive I am justified in saying that those communications were more of a private than a public nature.

4479. The Duke of Northumberland was not in town at the time when Cotsell's appointment was made out?—I think not; it was two or three days after that he returned.

4480. Are you sure that Admiral Parker remained in town till the Duke of Northumberland came?—I will not say whether he did or not; he may have done so; I will not be positive one way or the other.

4481. The appointment of Cotsell went on before the Duke came back to town?—Yes; the 1st of October, I think the Duke said; he returned a few days after that.

4482. The Duke said he was not present?—No, he was not.

4483. The Duke also said that when the matter was brought to his knowledge, although he thought it had been hastily done in the appointment of Wells, yet that he was much vexed in regard to the manner in which Mr. Stafford had treated Admiral Parker, and he certainly said all along on that occasion that he thought it was wrong. In that I suppose the Duke refers to superseding, or at least to setting aside, that appointment, made somewhat irregularly, without first communicating with Admiral Parker?—That did not take place at the Board.

4484. That you were perfectly ignorant of?—Yes.

4485. During the absence of the First Lord from the Board has not the First Naval Lord a general superintendence?—In minor matters of detail he would; otherwise they would all be referred to the First Lord, wherever he might be, any matter of importance.

4486. He is not in any way considered as the representative of the First Lord during the absence of the First Lord?—No, I should say decidedly not, beyond presiding at the Board.

4487. Was it brought to your notice that Captain Hamilton had held back the appointment of Wells?—No, I think not. I did not know that there was any interval between Wells's appointment beyond a few days; it was never officially brought before me that Captain Hamilton, of his own responsibility, had withheld forwarding that appointment.

4488. Were you aware that Sir Frederic Smith had strongly recommended Cotsell?—No, not in the slightest.

4489. You did not know that it was through political influence that Cotsell's name had been so strongly brought forward by the Secretary?—So far from it, the

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the only thing mentioned to me by the Secretary was, that Cotsell being the senior master smith in the service, and being anxious to go to Portsmouth, ought, he conceived, to go. I quite agreed in that opinion, and had no hesitation in signing his warrant; it was no promotion; it was merely a transfer.

4490. Did you consider the question of transferring a man to a yard in which he had occupied a position of an inferior grade?—I do not see the slightest injury to the service in that point. There are instances innumerable where it has been done, both with respect to the dockyard officers and in ships in commission, where officers have been promoted to the chief command. I may instance the present Comptroller of Victualling, which is one of the most responsible situations in the Navy, was originally a clerk in Somerset House.

4491. You do not consider that it interferes with a man's authority going back into a higher station in the yard where he has occupied an inferior position?—Not a bit more than promoting an A. B. to be boatwsain's mate in the same ship.

4492. You were not aware that Wells was performing the duty of master smith at Portsmouth?—I never knew that he had gone to Portsmouth before that time.

Admiral *Berkeley*, called in; and Examined.

Admiral *Berkeley*.

4493. *Chairman.*] THERE has been, as you are perhaps aware, a great difference of opinion in regard to the sense in which some words were used in a conversation between Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Stafford. Sir Baldwin Walker said that Mr. Stafford stated to him there was no use blinking the question in regard to promotions; he was so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he could not help himself; and Sir Baldwin Walker stated that he read that part of his evidence to Admiral Parker in your presence, and that Admiral Parker confirmed having heard Mr. Stafford use those words in his presence?—That is precisely so. When Sir Baldwin Walker came to that part of his evidence in which he stated that Mr. Stafford had named Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, I put my hand on his arm, and stopped him with an exclamation to the effect that no man could be guilty of such an indiscretion. Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, who was sitting in his chair, looked up to me, and said, "He did, though; I heard him."

4494. You have had great experience of several Boards of Admiralty?—I have been at six Boards, four Boards, and six different patents.

4495. There is one point upon which the Committee are at a loss, and wish you to give them some information; it is with reference to whether there is any distinct understanding regarding first entries and promotions in dockyards. We have had it stated here that when labourers are in a dockyard, and are made sawyers, that that is promotion, and that those names ought to be recommended by the superintendent. On the other hand, it has been represented that they are invariably to be considered first entries, and that the appointment therefore is with the Secretary of the Admiralty. Could you state in that case what is your belief as to the practice since the circular of 1847?—I had the Surveyor's department under me for some time. When a man is recommended to enter into the dockyard, that is what is supposed to be the Secretary's patronage. He can recommend the men, and if they are found fit for their situations, they are entered by the superintendent; but after they have once entered the dockyard the Secretary has nothing whatever to do with the patronage. That was the understanding of Lord Auckland and Sir Francis Baring both; and that was the system acted upon when I was at those Boards.

4496. Are the Committee to understand, that in whatever position a man enters the dockyard, once entered, that he is to rise by merit, through the recommendations of the officers, the superintendent and the surveyor?—Precisely.

Jovis, 12° *die Maii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Lord Hotham.
Mr. Beckett.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Sir Henry Ferguson Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of the House; further Examined.

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4497. *Chairman.*] WITH reference to what took place yesterday, I wish to ask you, whether you are anxious that the Committee should make any inquiry into that part of the subject which is included in the latter words of the Order of the House, namely, that the Committee are to inquire "generally into the exercise of the influence and patronage of the Admiralty, in the dockyards and Government departments connected with the several parliamentary boroughs;" and I ask you that question, because it seemed, by your statement in the House of Commons, that you made a reference to some political influence being used in the dockyards during the time that Sir Francis Baring was First Lord, and Mr. Parker the Secretary of the Admiralty?—It is not for me to pronounce any opinion as to what the Committee may think fit to do. The statement which I made rested upon the fact of the communications from the superintendents going first to Somerset House, and then to the Admiralty, instead of coming first to the Admiralty. I stated in my speech, that the communications were anonymous; and that there would be great inconvenience to the parties themselves concerned, if I gave up those names; it was upon those repeated anonymous communications, as well as communications made to me by honourable Members in the House, that I took upon myself the responsibility of cancelling the circular of 1849; a step which did not appear to me then to be so important as it does now to the Committee. The Committee will see that an attempt to impute undue influence to those who had preceded me, will place me in the extremely disagreeable position of apparently prosecuting my predecessors in office, and it might place those whom I might, if I chose, bring forward, in some danger, under the present system in the dockyards, according to their own statements.

4498. You were asked before as to any injustice having been done from political influence, and you stated, did you not, that it was rather from persons being passed over than from persons who were promoted?—My impression was that.

4499. The Committee have endeavoured to ascertain, from all the superintendents of the dockyards, whether, when they sent forward their recommendations, anything appeared in the Surveyor's office to show that any preference was given to one name over the other; and all those whom the Committee have had before them state, most positively, certainly not; therefore, so far as the Committee can ascertain, whatever was done, if anything was done, in withholding the names, was done, not in the Surveyor's office, but it must have been done by the superintendents, or the principal officers who recommended the men?—It would follow so.

4500. The Committee wish to ascertain on what grounds it was, that you deprived the Surveyor of an opportunity of reporting, when it seems to the Committee that nothing occurred in the Surveyor's office which could in any way justify such a step?—The alteration in the Surveyor's office seems to be a very slight alteration. The alteration with the superintendents involved a departure from the arrangements of 1847, which I considered very important.

4501. It did so; but if there was injustice in the promotions to the persons passed over, that injustice must have occurred before the names came to the Surveyor's office, as it appears?—Yes, I do not think it was definitely brought forward before me at the time.

4502. Do you still think, when the superintendents recommended names, that their names which they say were fairly treated in the Surveyor's office, were not fairly

fairly treated in the surveyor's department?—I could give no opinion as to that. When I cancelled the circular, there were complaints made of many apparent instances of injustice and unfairness; two modes suggested themselves to me of meeting that difficulty; the one involved an alteration of the dockyard regulations, to which I attached great importance, the other involved an alteration of one circular, which, not being a Board minute, was comparatively unimportant, I chose that means, because I thought it would enable me to make further inquiries on the subject, and I thought that was the easiest mode of meeting a difficulty, which pressed upon me very much at the time.

4503. If there had been any unjust influence used in the surveyor's department, the Committee understand that that would have met it; but if the injustice of the preference was before the names got to the surveyor's department, of what value was your cancelling of that circular?—Because it enabled me to communicate more freely with the superintendents of the yards.

4504. Did not Sir Henry Ward establish a very good system, which had gone on, of frequent communication with the superintendents of the yards, even before that?—In 1847.

4505. Had that system of frequent communication with the superintendents been abandoned?—It seemed to me that it was choked up by the circular of 1849, and in a considerable degree embarrassed. The Committee must recollect that I did not act with all the information I have now; it is a different thing to pronounce upon that circular now, to what it was then, when first I was in office. I am not attempting to vindicate myself, but my position now, and the information I have, are utterly different from what they were then.

4506. Does not it appear to you, with your present information, that, looking at the complaint that was made to you, namely, that persons were passed over by the Whig officials, and underlings, or some expression of that kind you read to the House of Commons, that your issuing the circular, which prevented those recommendations passing through the surveyor's office, was totally inefficient as a remedy for that?—It does not appear to me to be so.

4507. If there was a preference in the dockyards, it must have been a preference either on the part of the principal officers, or the superintendents of the dockyards, must it not?—Yes.

4508. By depriving the surveyor of an opportunity of making his observations upon their recommendations, you took away the only check that you had, except yourself, upon the conduct of the persons in the dockyards?—I believed the way to meet it was by a freer system of correspondence with those superintendents than I could have had if everything went round by the surveyor's office, and was frequently delayed there.

4509. You have stated with regard to Mr. Parker, who had been the Secretary of the Admiralty before, that you think he abandoned the patronage to the Surveyor, which he ought to have kept?—It seemed to me so; that is to say, by narrowing the range of the first and second name, practically to the first.

4510. That surely is a very different charge from the one that appeared to be made in the House of Commons, when it was stated that the Whigs, in 1848, "beginning to feel their power to decline"?—The Committee must recollect that was not stated by me.

4511. No, but it was read to the House; you solicited the attention of the House to this letter to convey to them an impression that you had received it, as I imagine?—Quite so; that letter was long subsequent, if I recollect rightly, to the cancelling of the order; I think it was a letter not long since that appeared in one of the morning papers, the "Morning Herald."

4512. That letter was meant, I suppose, to substantiate the justness of your impressions?—It was a letter with a similar statement to that which had impressed me with the belief that I might safely revert to the system which all my predecessors, with the exception of Mr. Parker, had used, and it did not appear to me to be a great step, the doing it.

4513. Does not it seem to you now, that the course taken by Mr. Parker was to abandon the patronage, and that what you imputed to him and to the Government of that day was an attempt to grasp patronage, even after leaving office?—Not Mr. Parker. I apprehend the statement meant all the superintendents of the yards, all of whom had been appointed by the Whig Government.

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4514. It could hardly mean that, because you applied it to a system which would, if they retired from office, leave the dockyard patronage in their grasp; the superintendents did not wish to have it in their grasp, but the Government?—Yes, quite so; I did not state my own views, but simply the representations that were made to me, that the Whigs did make those arrangements in order that when they themselves retired from office, which they thought they might do in 1849; the Whig superintendent, appointed in 1848, would have four more years to run, during which time he would use his influence in their favour.

4515. Your circular was directed against the Surveyor?—Yes.

4516. But your suspicions were directed against the superintendents?—I wished to have a more direct communication with them, as I thought it would enable me to have a more direct check upon them.

4517. Your distrust was in fact of the superintendents?—I do not quite say that; it was represented to me, and pressed upon me, that the dockyards played into the hands of Somerset House.

4518. There was some collusion between them to prevent merit having its fair chance of rising?—Yes. I am now saying not what my own convictions were, but what the representations made to me at the time, were at the time. I do not like to name any names, because it has been my wish during the whole course of this investigation, not to injure any one, I hope I have not done so; but as a name has been brought forward, I may state that the relationship between the two Mr. Edyes was one case. If I had interfered with the Devonport Dockyard I could only have done so by altering the regulations of Sir Henry Ward. I thought there must be a check upon a system like that; such as cancelling of that which I considered a very unimportant circular. When I read in the dockyard regulations, repeated orders, quotations from which I will with the permission of the Committee put in, to have all communications sent to the Secretary of the Admiralty, it seemed to me that the usage from 1849 to 1852 was quite an exceptional case, "You are to report all vacancies without exception that occur in the dockyard, and show any vacancy occasioned by promotion or otherwise shall occur; you are, after consulting the officer in whose department such vacancy may happen, to forward to the Admiralty the names of persons belonging to the yard fit from ability and character to succeed to the vacancy; but no person whatever is to be promoted or entered on the establishment of the yard in any vacancy or otherwise as officer, clerk, artificer, or labourer, without our express authority. Article 49. All applications from the officers, artificers, and others employed in the dockyards for promotion, removal, the entry of their relatives as apprentices, and other requests of a similar nature, are to be sent through you, and you are to state briefly your opinion relative to such application. Article 48. The superintendents of dockyards are, in submitting such matters as may be brought before them for our consideration, after due inquiry, to submit their own opinion thereon." Those instructions, being so completely in favour of direct communication, led me to think that the circular of 1849 established an exceptional case, therefore there was no great difficulty in returning to them.

4519. With regard to the two gentlemen of the name of Edye, do you know how long the Mr. Edye in the Surveyor's office has been in that office?—No, I do not; I stated I think, before, that it was impossible for me to institute personal inquiries, having just come into office, when I had no time whatever to do it; neither have I, until other people named their names, named them myself.

4520. At that time no case of promotion had passed through the surveyor's office and come to you?—Yes, there were some cases of promotion; there was one case in which four people were promoted at the instigation of the Surveyor.

4521. Will you refer the Committee to those cases?—It was a vacancy for a master at Rochester, rather at Chatham; in answer to a question from the Honourable Member for Haddington, I stated that my attention had been drawn, or at least, that communications had been made to me, not merely with regard to promotions since I came into office, but before.

4522. In regard to what had taken place previously?—Yes; I do not wish to say, by mentioning those names, that my attention was particularly called to them.

4533. I think you stated that it was in consequence of promotions that you had agreed

agreed to since you had been there?—Yes, I think there was some obscurity cleared up by a subsequent question.

4524. The question asked you was this. Question 1212. "Were these the cases of persons who had been passed over, between the date of your entrance into office and the date of your letter, or previously to that? They were people who wrote to me referring to matters before the date of my entering into office.—Did their complaints refer to a previous period? Yes, the complaints several of them ran back a long time.—Not of persons who had been passed over during your tenure of office? Not altogether, but their complaints came while I was in office"? —Yes.

4525. Those complaints coming were complaints of the Surveyor's office or of the superintendent's recommendations?—I should think, most probably, there were complaints of both, or simply stating that such or such a man had been passed over by the Whigs.

4526. Do you remember whether they gave you any names?—They were very often the names of the people themselves.

4527. Who had been passed over?—Yes.

4528. Did you refer to the promotions at the time, to see who had been preferred to them?—No.

4529. Then you did not ascertain whether or not there was any ground for their complaints?—They stated that they had been passed over.

4530. And you supposed that they had been passed over unjustly?—There were so many of them, that I thought it was a case for making a slight alteration. These are the four names which I found, "In consequence of the death of Mr. Richard Ludweeks, master of the 'Rochester' lighter, belonging to this establishment, officially reported to have taken place on the 4th instant, at the Royal Naval Hospital at Plymouth, where he had been received, afflicted with pneumonia; I have the honour to recommend for their Lordships' favourable consideration, the following arrangements with reference to this vacancy; the persons named being the most trustworthy and deserving, as well as the best qualified of those employed in the hoys at this yard. Mr. John Savage, now master of the 'Duck' lighter, to be removed to the 'Rochester.' Mr. Richard Granby, now master of the 'Dove' barge, to be master of the 'Duck' lighter. James Weal, mate of the 'Rochester' (and who has been in charge of the vessel during the illness of the master), to be master of the 'Dove' barge. Edwin Heather, seaman of the 'Duck' lighter, to be mate of the 'Rochester.'" Then there is the examination paper signed by Lane, the master attendant; this letter is signed by Captain Richards. "Should their Lordships approve of these arrangements, I beg to submit for further consideration, that the appointments be made, subject to confirmation at the expiration of 12 months, should the conduct of the respective parties be found satisfactory. I enclose a certificate of the qualifications of Mr. Richard Granby, James Weal, and Edwin Heather, after due examination by the Master Attendant. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant (signed) *R. W. Richards*, Captain Superintendent." It is written here, "March 12th, 1852, Submitted that the arrangements herein proposed be approved by their Lordships, and the Superintendent at Chatham informed, *B. W. Walker*, Surveyor. March 13th, Approved, *Augustus Stafford*." Those are not names to which I attach any importance; there may have been others; I did not look particularly for them. I was rather looking to the Chatham cases when I was at the Admiralty the other day

4531. In this case no alteration is made in the recommendation of the Superintendent by the Surveyor of the Navy?—None whatever.

4532. If there had been, for instance, in such a case as this, any preference from partiality or private friendship, or affection, the injustice was in the dockyards, and not in the Surveyor's office?—No, that did not follow.

4533. Why did not it follow?—Because, according to the representations that were made to me, there was a concert between Somerset House and the dockyards; and in that case it would not appear that any names were passed over. They would have come up in the course in which they were recommended from Somerset House, and thus the system was made complete.

4534. What the Committee are to understand is this, that you imagined at the time, under the information you received, that some hint was given from the

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Surveyor's department to persons in the dockyard at Chatham, whom they should recommend ?—That was the sum of all the representations that were made to me.

4535. That was the nature of the suspicion that you entertained ?—I think so. The state of the case is this, which I have stated to the Committee very often; that representations were made to me that the system of patronage was entirely in the hands of the Whigs, I had to consider how that should be met. It was urged upon me so strongly by members of my own party and others, that I thought it right to institute some system, to ascertain it for myself. I did not like to enter into a personal dispute with any one. I felt that it was impossible to bring forward individual cases. The plan adopted by all my predecessors, and as I read it in the spirit of the Dockyard Regulations of 1847, seemed to me expedient, and in like manner, to revert to the system proposed by Lord Auckland. In consequence of those representations, in consequence of being so much pressed, I did it, I cannot say anything more. That was the real state of the case. I may have done it hastily; I may have done it on insufficient information; but I did it.

4536. What I wished to ask was rather, as those statements were made, and as you entertained that suspicion up to the time when you made the statement in the House of Commons, which was a year nearly after the cancelling of the circular ?—I do not think I stated in the House of Commons that I entertained the suspicion then.

4537. You spoke of the suspicion as having existed in your mind, and you read letters strongly corroborating that suspicion, though they were anonymous letters, and you did not give the House of Commons to understand that, upon further inquiry, you found that your suspicions were ill-founded, or anything that could lead the House to suppose that you had altered your opinion. The Committee are anxious, therefore, to ascertain, whether any dishonest proceedings of the kind you suspected had ever existed, either in any of the dockyards, or in the Surveyor's office ?—The Committee will see, with regard to the Surveyor's office, that when the dockyard communications were all made to me direct from the superintendents, the question of the Surveyor's office never presented itself to me any more.

4538. Of course when you shut the question of the Surveyor's office altogether out of consideration, by having the recommendations sent direct to you, and dealing with them, nothing more could happen in the Surveyor's office; but the Committee wish to understand whether you can give them anything to guide them to an inquiry which would enable them to judge of your suspicions, which existed previously to issuing that circular ?—I have nothing whatever to bring against any of the superintendents of the yards. I think my suspicions were, at all events, considerably exaggerated. There may have been slight occasions, such as those mentioned by Commodore Seymour, as to Edye, at Devonport; there are people now who complain in the inferior offices of the dockyards, that their claims were not justly considered, not by the superintendents, but in the preparatory arrangements of submitting the names to the superintendents; but all those people have requested me not to bring their names forward; they feel it would be excessively unkind and harsh to them, to bring their names forward; and it places me in the most odious position in which any person can be placed, the prosecutor of those who preceded me in office. I would rather bear (I will not say a harsher, because it is wanting in respect to the Committee,) but a more severe censure of myself, than that I should seem to enter into a personal attack upon any one of my predecessors in office, or that I should injure one poor person in one of the dockyards.

4539. In our duty to the House we must inquire into any case of improper use of patronage, and it is our duty, which we cannot help; we must make an inquiry to the best of our ability. You have mentioned the names of the two Edyes, one being at Devonport, and the other for a very long time, I believe, in the Surveyor's department; now, if there was any case in which an officer in the Surveyor's department did, by communication with his relative, who was in the dockyard at Devonport, seek to obtain favours for individuals unjustly, that would be a case which it is the duty of the Committee to proceed fully to inquire into ? —If the Committee mean that I have any objection to the examination of either of the Edyes, I have not the slightest in the world, on the contrary.

4540. Is

4540. Is there anything that you can refer to, to enable the Committee to inquire into such a system?—No; neither would I have named either of them, if they had not been previously named.

4541. You referred to them, and I thought, as they had been named, you had, in their case, something that you could mention to the Committee, as a means of enabling them to institute some inquiries?—I do not remember the names that were brought forward of people, neither can I name any names; when I determined to make this alteration, and revert to the system of Lord Auckland, I believe I destroyed all the letters that I had on the subject.

4542. You referred the Committee to some orders of the Admiralty in the general instructions, which said, that all communications were to come straight to the Secretary?—Yes, I have not got the instances here, because I did not know that this case would be re-opened.

4543. You brought this to the notice of the Committee, and you begged to put in some papers respecting the correspondence coming direct from the superintendents to the Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes, I find that I have left those cases in my own house.

4544. I have before me a Board order of the Admiralty, the 25th of October 1851, which says, "The several Superintendents of Her Majesty's dockyards have been directed to report all vacancies for artificers and labourers in the yards under their superintendence to you, and to send no return of these vacancies to the Secretary of the Admiralty; and you are to forward the returns from the respective dockyards, with any remark you may have to offer upon them, as soon after you have received them as possible. By command of their Lordships." This is directed to the Surveyor of the Navy. According to the system of 1841, under that letter, it seems that the recommendations from the superintendents of the dockyards went to the Surveyor?—That went on with the dockyard instructions of 1844.

4545. Yes; they are dated the 16th of August 1844, "When vacancies occur in the dockyards, whether of the superior or inferior class of officers, if they be such as require to be filled up, you are, after consultation with the superintendents of the yards, to offer such information to the Board, relative to the merits of candidates to succeed to such vacancies, as such superintendents and yourself may concur in deeming advisable and just." Then, again, in 1844, the Surveyor of the Navy was apparently recommended to inquire, indeed, ordered to inquire?—The cancelling of the order of 1849 I did not apprehend would alter any consultation he required. If the communications with the Surveyor were as they were after 1849, there would have been no occasion for the circular.

4546. In 1841 it is said that all recommendations and reports of vacancies were to go through the Surveyor. In 1844 they go further; and they say that when any vacancy occurs he is to consult with the superintendents upon filling it up; that would seem to show that at that time they all went through the Surveyor's department?—Then I do not see the necessity of the circular of 1849 at all.

4547. In 1847 we find they come first to the Admiralty?—Yes.

4548. In 1849 they were ordered again to pass first through the Surveyor's department?—I have not got the regulations here; the dockyard regulations, I think I stated yesterday, or the day before, appear to me to be somewhat out of harmony with each other, and therefore I issued that circular. Perhaps the Committee will be kind enough to call for the original order of 1844.

4549. To Sir *B. Walker*.] Did you send the Committee this book (*showing a book to the Witness*)?—Yes.

4550. It is called "General Instructions for the Five Principal Officers of the Civil Department of the Navy." Are those the instructions under which you are at present acting?—Yes; those are the same instructions; that book is not dated; in my present instructions there is the same clause; I think that book refers to 1841; there is another order in 1844.

John Beer, Esq. called in; and Examined.

4551. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—A Solicitor, residing in Devonport.

4552. Have you taken any part in politics at Devonport?—Yes, I have.

4553. On what side?—On the Conservative side.

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4554. Have you been long in Devonport?—I have lived there all my life.

4555. Have you acted as an agent for a long time there?—Yes, ever since the passing of the Reform Bill; ever since the time that the borough was enfranchised.

4556. Ever since the borough had Members?—Yes.

4557. You remember, then, the different elections that have taken place?—I remember them very well.

4558. Was the borough enfranchised in 1832?—Yes.

4559. When was the first election?—It took place immediately after the passing of the Reform Bill; I think either in the latter end of 1832, or the commencement of 1833; it was in December 1832, I think.

4560. Who were the candidates then?—The candidates were Sir George Grey, Sir Edward Codrington, and Mr. Leach, who had been a solicitor, practising at Devonport; I am not sure that he was practising then.

4561. Then there were only three candidates upon that occasion?—Only three.

4562. Were any of those candidates connected with the Government of the day?—I think Sir George Grey was; I am really not sure; he was at all events after the election; my impression is, that he was not at that time; I am not sure.

4563. When was the next election?—There have been many elections arising out of Sir George Grey's frequent change of office.

4564. What was the next election?—That was an unopposed election; he was not opposed on that occasion.

4565. That was the next general election?—At the next general election the candidates were Sir George Grey and Sir Edward Codrington; I think they were not opposed then, I think, in 1835.

4566. There was no opposition then?—No; there was an election when Sir Robert Peel took office, and upon that occasion the Secretary of the Admiralty was a candidate on the Conservative side.

4567. In 1835?—Yes.

4568. Who were the candidates then?—Sir George Grey, Sir Edward Codrington, and Mr. Dawson.

4569. Mr. Dawson was then on the part of the Government, was he not?—Yes, he was Secretary of the Admiralty.

4570. Were you the agent of Mr. Dawson at that time?—Yes.

4571. Who were the successful candidates then?—Sir George Grey and Sir Edward Codrington; Mr. Dawson was beaten.

4572. Was he at that time Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes.

4573. At that time the dockyard influence, if it was used, was not successful?—Certainly not.

4574. Have you any doubt whether it was used?—I will state, if the Committee will permit me, why I think it was not successful; upon the first election, Sir George Grey came down, I think, at the instance of several of the leading Whigs of the borough, and was by them introduced; and nothing was said, or very little was said, about the Government patronage at the time; but he was immediately afterwards followed by Sir Edward Codrington, on whose behalf the Government patronage was instantly launched forth in its full bearings; it was understood at once, that Sir Edward Codrington was the favourite of the Admiralty of the day; and for this reason, in the dockyard, they prepared a very handsome model of a ship, in which Sir Edward Codrington always appeared in public, accompanied by the Commissioner of the dockyard, who was then Captain Ross, in full uniform; and there could be no question that Sir Edward Codrington was in the full exercise of Government patronage. That induced a great number of gentlemen in the town, as it was a first election, to endeavour to put aside that sort of Government patronage; and, I believe, many of us saw, and had spoken freely upon what would result in very great mischief to a town like ours. When the first scheme of the Reform Bill came out, the borough of Devonport was, as I thought, and many others, fortunately left out of Schedule A., but there was a great outcry in the town; and a very large meeting was held, and I was one of those who took a part in entering a protest against the borough being enfranchised, conceiving then, as I have seen the result since, that there were only two alternatives, the borough must either be cutting its own throat by voting against the Government,

Government, or it must be a nomination borough in the hands of the Government; I felt then, and the results since have convinced me that I was right.

4575. Do you think that it ought to be disfranchised?—I should be glad of it myself, individually.

4576. You stated that upon this occasion great Government influence was used for Admiral Codrington?—Yes; your Lordship will remember that Lord Grey's Government continued down to 1835, and during the whole of that time very few of the dockyard men voted for Mr. Leach, who was put forward by the town to prevent, if possible, this nomination of two candidates on the part of the Government. Mr. Dawson, when he came down, as Secretary to the Admiralty, found so far as I could see, that Government influence on his side would be very little used indeed; nearly all the men who had votes in the yard were influenced in their votes, I believe, on that occasion, by the good things that had fallen to the share of many of them, and the expectation that the Government would not long continue.

4577. There was stated in the House of Commons, was there not, some story of the dockyard flag waving over Mr. Dawson's head?—Yes, I remember it very well.

4578. And an officer in full uniform being by him on the hustings?—That was the same gentleman that I spoke of; he was on the side of Sir Edward Codrington.

4579. He went from side to side, in full uniform?—Yes, he was a very honourable, straightforward man; he was unquestionably Conservative in politics. On the first occasion politics were very little considered, so much as the independence of the town.

4580. Will you come to the next election?—The next contest after that was between Mr. Dawson and Mr. Tufnell, upon the occasion of Sir Edward Codrington's accepting the office of Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth; that was in 1839 or 1840, and the Whigs were in office then.

4581. Was that a great contest?—Yes, a very great and a very severe contest. Your Lordship will probably remember, that Sir Edward Codrington accepted that appointment some time in August, or about that period of the year, and the election did not take place till January the next year, and the contest was kept on foot in the borough during all those months, and a most strict and severe canvass was going on. I think I may say, that Mr. Dawson on that occasion saw personally every elector of the place, and there could be no question, so far as men would promise face to face to each other, that Mr. Dawson had a majority of pledged votes within three days of the election.

4582. You think then that some influence was used in the dockyards, which defeated Mr. Dawson?—It is beyond all question. Reasoning generally from the fact that Mr. Dawson was beaten, and that appointments followed that election, it gave one a very good reason to know how the election had been won.

4583. What was the next election?—Upon that occasion Sir John Romilly was a candidate with Mr. Tufnell.

4584. In 1839?—No, in 1841; that was the next election; then Mr. Tufnell and Sir John Romilly came down, and were opposed by Mr. George Sandars, on the Conservative side; he was in Parliament after that.

4585. He was not connected with Devonport in any way?—No, he was not.

4586. He came down and stood on the other side?—Yes.

4587. He was defeated?—Yes, he was.

4588. Do you think that the dockyard influence was used then?—There was not so much appearance of it on that occasion as there had been.

4589. Now, the next election after 1841?—The next election was in 1847, but I think there was no contest.

4590. Then you could not judge in 1847, whether matters had improved or not, there being no contest?—No.

4591. When was the next contested election?—The last.

4592. Were you aware that very strict injunctions had been issued in 1847 respecting any political interference on the part of the superintendents, or officers of the dockyards?—I read the orders at the time they were issued.

4593. Since the issue of the circular of 1847, do you think that injustice has been done to individuals in the dockyard on account of their political opinions?—As a general proposition, I should say that I have no doubt of it. The impression formed in my mind from all the facts that have passed before me for a

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series of years, has been this, that the Government influence having been brought to bear upon the men in the dockyard from one election to another election, the dockyard has been turned quite at ends; almost every man who has progressed in the dockyard during that period, was notoriously a Whig, and the chance of a man being recommended by his superior officer, is so very slight, that I think, if he does not please them on all points, the order of 1847 would have the direct effect of perpetuating Whig patronage in the borough of Devonport for a very long period of time; it would have been utterly impossible to have withstood it. I will show the Committee what I mean by that. The Committee have heard that the master shipwright is a brother of the Assistant-Surveyor of the Navy, the first assistant of the Navy. Then there is the other assistant in the dockyard, the master ropemaker, the master sailmaker, the three foremen, the foreman of caulkers, two foremen of ropemakers, the foreman of joiners, the two foremen of smiths, two timber converters, four measurers, seven inspectors of shipwrights, four draughtsmen, and seventeen leading men, who are all Whigs, who have been promoted for political purposes. I do not say that they are not deserving men; I mean to say that they are all Whigs, and they have been promoted by the late Government, by the Whigs of that day.

4594. By whom were they put into the dockyard?—I have no means of knowing that; in all probability, some of them have been a long time in the dockyard.

4595. Have they voted always for the Liberal party, or have they been men who voted for the Government candidate?—I believe they were men who had always voted on the Liberal side; I believe they are what we call there and are known as active Whigs in the borough; and with regard to the statement that the dockyard men take very great interest in political matters, you cannot prevent it. As to the late promotions, I have had the means of searching through, within the period probably of the four or five years I spoke of, previously to the late election, and there were promoted to be leading men from the shipwrights, that is, the first promotion in the dockyard, 36 men to be leading men. Now, of those the Conservatives were four; those who had no votes were two; and the Whigs were 30, and of those 30, two of them have been since promoted to be inspectors of the dockyard, which is the next grade of promotion. And, so far as I remember, during the whole period that it was supposed the Government influence might have been used in the other way, there was not a single promotion; and I, for one, do not hesitate to say, that I was very much annoyed that the Government did not serve our friends as the late Government had served theirs.

4596. Do you mean that there was no promotion at all, or that they still went on promoting the Whig party?—I do not remember a single instance of promotion, although, I believe, at that period, there were several vacancies for leading men and inspectors, and the men who considered that they had been passed over, were naturally very anxious that they should have their chance of promotion. From some cause, which I can understand, since these proceedings have been on foot, probably the Surveyor, having more control over that matter, thought that they would exceed the Estimates, and that that was a very good reason why there should be no promotion; but the fact was, that there was none.

4597. At the time when there was no promotion, are the Committee to understand that that was after Lord Derby's Government came into power?—Yes.

4598. From the time that Lord Derby's Government came into power at the commencement of March, are the Committee to understand that from that time there was no promotion until when?—I remember no case; I do not know whether there has been any since or not; so far as my memory leads me, there was no promotion during that time.

4599. From March to December?—During the time that Lord Derby's Administration held office.

4600. From March to December?—I think there was none; I speak of the dockyard at Devonport.

4601. *Chairman.* (To Sir *B. Walker.*)] I hold in my hand a paper called "Appointments and Promotions which took place in the dockyards during the years 1851 and 1852, from the 21st of February, both in the dockyards and in the victualling yard appointments." When I read in this paper of appointments and promotions, for instance, "On the 14th of June, Devonport Dockyard, Master Smith," is that a promotion?—He was confirmed; he was on probation.

4602. On

4602. On probation, and confirmed?—Yes.

Mr. *Beer.*] That is no promotion whatever; that is the master smith that was brought in from the private trade.

4603. I find on the 1st of March, a clerk named W. W. Carrington, promoted from the third class to the second class?—Yes; but I ought probably to have said that the promotions to which I allude, are those to which I before referred as having so great a preponderance on the one side of politics; I did not allude to the clerks in the answer that I gave.

4604. You stated, did you not, that there had been no promotions?—None that I remember; I think that I was asked as to the period from the 1st of March; I forget whether Lord Derby's Administration had been in power at the time.

4605. On the 3d of March there were two boys promoted to be ropemaker's apprentices?—That will be a new appointment, not a promotion.

4606. It is given here as among the promotions from the Admiralty; "George Whaites, day labourer, made a permanent labourer;" is that promotion?—No; I consider that a new appointment.

4607. There are three or four promoted from being labourers, to be permanent labourers; do not you think that of any use to the labourers?—It is of most essential use, because until he is confirmed, his time for superannuation would not go on.

4608. Therefore, for political purposes, that does as well as a promotion?—Yes, in that light, it would be considered a promotion; a man would apply for it, and ask to have it done. The Committee will find, I think, if they refer, that there are no promotions among the shipwrights in that period.

4609. No, but there are a great many here among the labourers and clerks; the chief of them are labourers?—Is there any other case of a clerk in the Devonport Dockyard; yes, Walker, temporary clerk; that is an appointment.

4610. To all political purposes it is a great advantage to a man to be raised from a temporary clerk to be a permanent clerk?—Yes.

4611. What the Committee are considering is, whether political influence was used in the dockyards?—Yes.

4612. You come to show that it was used in the dockyard?—Yes.

4613. As regards political influence, if men are promoted from day labourers to be permanent labourers, that, so far as political influence is concerned, would have its effect upon them, would it not?—I suppose it would.

4614. If a man is promoted from temporary clerk to be a permanent clerk in the same way, it would have its effect?—I do not know; that would depend upon circumstances: I recollect perfectly well the appointment of young Walker, and I will tell the Committee what it was.

4615. Is it not an advantage to a man to be raised from a temporary clerk to a permanent clerk?—Yes, undoubtedly. The father of this young gentleman was a commander in the Navy, and one, I will venture to say, of the most distinguished officers of his day and standing; who has as many war clasps as any man in our neighbourhood. He had been living in Devonport for a very long period of time, 20 or 25 years, but unfortunately for him, he had always voted for the Conservative party. He had made, to my knowledge, repeated and constant applications for employment, and he never could get it; he had a very large family, and as soon as there was a chance of a change of Government, he laid a public statement of his services before the Duke of Northumberland, and he did get from the Duke of Northumberland, which probably he would not have had otherwise, an appointment of a clerkship for his son; and I venture to say there never was an appointment made by any First Lord which would reflect greater credit on him. He was one of the most deserving officers, who had been most undeservedly punished for voting on the Conservative side.

4616. Did any vacancy for promotion occur during the period in question amongst the artificers in the yard?—Yes; I do not know whether any vacancies occurred; I know several were promoted.

4617. During that year?—Yes, during those nine months.

4618. Several artificers were appointed?—Yes.

4619. You do not know whether any vacancies occurred?—I presume there must have been vacancies, or they could not be entered; they never enter, as I understand, beyond the establishment.

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4620. They never enter any as extra men?—Yes, they do upon occasions of a great pressure of work.

4621. In considering this question of justice or injustice, it is important to know whether any vacancy occurred which the officers of the yard did not report; you have stated, have you not, that no promotions were made?—What I consider promotions; speaking of those 32 shipwrights, there were no promotions among the shipwrights at that period.

4622. Were there any vacancies during that time which were, as you think, unfairly held back by the principal officers in the yard?—It would be hard to say that; I desire not to express an opinion of that description; all I say is this, that it was reported to me, as a person who they thought could serve them, that there were several vacancies in the dockyard; and I think Sir George Berkeley applied to the Admiralty to get them filled up, but they were not filled up; and if I am not mistaken, they still continue. So far as I have heard from the evidence, I think the Committee will find them in the monthly returns, of which, for instance Commodore Seymour spoke the other day. The Committee will find those vacancies for leading men, foremen and inspectors, carried on from month to month, and reported to the Admiralty, without a note, accompanying the report, that the vacancies were wanted to be filled up, and they are not filled up.

4623. Can you say or not whether any vacancy occurred among the shipwrights between March and December, which would have allowed the possibility of promotions?—No; I do not remember that there were any such; I speak of vacancies for officers, such as the promotion of leading men, which were reported to us to exist at the time that Lord Derby's administration came into power; I know of no new ones.

4624. When they came into power, you heard that a number of vacancies existed in the dockyards?—Yes.

4625. Have you anything to do with the Patronage Committee of Devonport?—No, I do not know of any such committee. The Committee will understand me to say, that the Government patronage in the dockyard at Devonport has been uniformly considered to be as much a share of patronage as the Treasury, the Post Office, or any other department; I have never known the slightest deviation from it; I see no alterations since the circular of 1847. The party who have the power, generally succeed in getting for their friends the appointments that occur.

4626. Are you considering the question of first entries, or the question of promotions?—I consider the whole together.

4627. They are two very different questions; the question which the Committee are dealing with is that of first entries, not the question of promotions in the dockyards; for a promotion, it is first necessary that there should be a vacancy, is it not?—Just so.

4628. There is also a consideration referring to the Estimates for the year; whether it is or not advisable to fill up that vacancy?—I suppose there is; I do not know anything of that.

4629. All you know is, that when there are vacancies, you think that they ought at once to be filled up?—I express no opinion upon that; the men would desire to have them filled up, but it would be for the Executive to decide upon that; I express no opinion upon it.

4630. Do you think that any report came from the officers of the dockyard, recommending that they should not be filled up?—I do not know; I know nothing of that sort; I would say that I never communicated directly or indirectly with the commodore; I would not ask him such a question, though I might have had the power to do so during the time that Lord Derby's Administration was in power, besides that, I always understood that Commodore Seymour was a Conservative, but I never spoke to him on politics in my life.

4631. You had always understood that he was a Conservative?—Yes; but that is a matter of mere report; I know that he is connected with Conservative families in the county; if he has any politics, I never saw them in the slightest degree exhibited.

4632. You say, that when Lord Derby's Government came into power, there were several vacancies?—Yes, I understood there were.

4633. Then the Government going out had not filled up those vacancies?—No, they had not.

4634. Do

4634. Do you know whether or not any order had been given as to the filling-up of those vacancies?—I do not.

4635. At any rate, they had not at that time used the political power of filling up those vacancies?—Certainly, they had not; they had the power to fill them up by their friends, but the vacancies remained.

4636. Then, Lord Derby's Government coming into power, it was natural that the party who had been supporting that side in politics should be anxious to have a share of the patronage?—Quite so.

4637. They were naturally anxious that those promotions should go on, so that they might get their share also?—Undoubtedly.

4638. But you cannot ascertain whether or not they were hindered by any reports from the principal officers; I do not speak of the commodore superintendent?—I have no means of knowing anything about that; my opinion was asked about it at the time of the change of Government, and I did not hesitate to express a very strong opinion, that there was very little chance for any shipwright to get promotion if he had to be reported on through that circular of 1847; and I still think so conscientiously.

4639. You were asked that question?—Yes.

4640. In the course of the election?—No, it was before.

4641. Was it before you considered that all the principal officers in the yard would give their favour according to their political opinions?—It would be hard to give an affirmative answer to that; one should not judge another; but considering the constitution of human nature, I think that would be very likely to be the result, for of the 36 men, only four during that period were Conservatives. The Committee will better understand why I came to such conclusions, if they will permit me to explain with reference to the period that Sir John Louis was Commodore of the dockyard; the Committee will probably see the working of the system. There would be no appointment without a vacancy. Now, vacancies occur in different ways, either by the deaths of the men in the dockyard, or by superannuations. Now, those superannuations are by no means the voluntary acts of the men themselves; they are called before the superior officers at a particular period of the month, and at the discretion of the superior officers, are ordered to be superannuated. It is very often the cause of great distress to a man to be superannuated. The Committee will understand that the order, as I believe it is, is that every man above 60 years of age is liable to be superannuated, and it depends entirely upon the favour of the officers before whom they go, whether they shall be superannuated or not.

4642. What officers do the men go before?—I think the master shipwright and the assistant, and the surgeon of the dockyard; I am not quite sure. I find from the 26th of December 1846 to the 16th of February 1850, there were no less than 439 men superannuated from that dockyard, all the vacancies of which were filled by the Government of the day; and the charge upon the public fund for the superannuation of those men, amounted to within a few pounds of 11,000*l.* a year. All those men were replaced by the nominees of the parties who had the patronage of the day.

4643. A man, to be superannuated, must be past 60?—Yes; at some trouble I have obtained the instances of two men; I wish the Committee to have the facts before them to form their judgment, as I have endeavoured to form mine. Amongst them, looking through the list, I see that there were two men brought up for superannuation, one of whom was called Honey, and the other was called Axford. They were both over 60 years of age. Honey had always voted for the Conservatives, and Axford was a very active partisan of the Whig side; Honey was told that he was too old, and that he must be superannuated, and Axford was kept, though he was seven years older, and, as I am told, the inferior workman of the two; and it is a fact, that those two men were brought up for superannuation at the same period.

4644. At what date was that?—Honey, I think, was superannuated on the 10th of March 1849, and he complained a great deal about it at the time, and insisted upon it, that he was a better workman than the other.

4645. Who was the superintendent at the time?—Sir John Louis.

4646. Does not the superintendent of the yard attend the examination of the men named for superannuation?—I do not know.

4647. Your impression is, that men have been unfairly superannuated?—I should consider that if Honey is as good a workman as Axford, if age had any

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thing to do with it, Axford ought to have gone, because he was seven years older; and I consider that if they were equally good workmen, a very gross injustice was done in that case.

4648. Do you know of your own knowledge the state of the health of those men, or their fitness comparatively for superannuation?—I do not know; I speak of the reports that were brought to me.

4649. Lord *Hotham.*] You know this from Honey's own complaint?—Yes, he complained a great deal about it.

4650. *Chairman.*] What superannuations were there during the nine months that Lord Derby's Government were in office?—I do not know.

4651. That would be a question in which your friends at Devonport would be greatly interested, would they not?—Yes, but I do not remember; in fact, it is probable that I should not have known so much of the superannuations at the time of which I have spoken, except that they were furnished to me for the purpose of making some use of it at the hustings at the election. A great deal is said at the time, whichever party is in power, about political patronage; and I was anxious to be in a situation to show the effects of Government patronage before that period.

4652. What the Committee are to understand from your statement is, that looking at the last election, and looking at the former elections, you do not think that the circular of 1847 had any effect in diminishing political influence in the dockyard?—I did not, indeed.

4653. Do you consider that disfranchising the men in the dockyard would be a cure for it?—I do not; I think so far as the dockyard men are concerned, it would be an act of very great injustice to them. If the franchise were suffered to be continued to admirals, captains, and lieutenants in the navy, among whom a very considerable quantity of patronage goes, resulting from the elections, I have known the command in the South Pacific to follow on one election, and the command on the West Coast of Africa to follow another. I could show the Committee a list of appointments and promotions in the navy amongst political partisans; and the priority of the Whigs would probably astonish your Lordship and the members of the Committee. I think that to disfranchise the dockyard man, and let the officer have his vote, would be a personal act of injustice. Though many of them are politically opposed to me, I think they are equally as independent as the officers are in giving their votes; both parties look up to the patronage, and the people are influenced by it. The Committee must remember the state of the dockyards at the time of passing the Reform Bill; down to that time, the principal part of the men in the dockyard were introduced from Dartmouth, and Exeter, and Barnstaple, and other places, that had votes. If a man had a vote in one of those boroughs, he requested a favour for his brother or his friend, and he was sent into our dockyard. The dockyard patronage was not reduced by enfranchising the place; it was only concentrated in Devonport.

4654. Then you think, in justice to the dockyard men, if the Legislature should disfranchise the men in the dockyard, it ought to disfranchise all persons in the navy?—I think every one who receives Government pay ought to be disfranchised, provided it was dealt out to the dockyard men.

4655. Have you heard any report that the dockyard patronage has been the subject of sale?—Yes, constantly.

4456. Have you any doubt about it?—I have not the slightest doubt. It is a sort of thing that I think would be very difficult to prove, unless the House of Commons were to issue a commission upon the spot where parties might be inquired of. The evil results that might be likely to follow the mention of names before such a Committee as this, would not follow; but no sooner does a change of Government take place than I have constant application from parties who wish to get into the dockyard. I may say, that not unfrequently those applications are accompanied by an indication; for instance, if it was a shipright, it was understood that the price was 20 *l.*, which I might have had; if a labourer or a sawyer, the price was stated in equally positive terms. I believe, therefore, from those communications having been made to me in that way, that there was a system in the Devonport Dockyard, carried out by some persons or other, and that places were bought with money. I have heard, that during the canvass of Mr. Tufnell his friends were very frequently twitted with the fact.

4657. With the fact of places having been made the subject of sale?—Yes.

4658. You

4658. You are of opinion that if an inquiry were made upon the spot, and means taken to arrive at the facts, it would be discovered that such was the case frequently?—I do think so. By this morning's post, or yesterday's, I received a letter acquainting me with the names of two persons, but it would be most injudicious and imprudent for me to meddle with the matter, for I apprehend this Committee would have no power to shield me from the consequences of making such a statement; but I have no more doubt upon the matter than that I am in the presence of this Committee.

4659. You think, if an inquiry were instituted, it would be found out to be a system practised on a large scale?—It would be difficult to say that, I have heard of promotions having been obtained for money amongst the officers in the dockyard, and that money has been paid for situations in the dockyard, to get in as first appointments.

4660. You have been a long time at Devonport since the enfranchisement of the borough; have you known frequent cases in which the Secretary of the Admiralty has come down with the candidates, and canvassed for the election?—No, I know of no such thing as that; I recollect that when Mr. Tufnell came, he was accompanied by Admiral Dundas, and introduced into the borough by Admiral Dundas. He was not then a Lord of the Admiralty; I think he was Clerk of the Ordnance. Admiral Dundas introduced Mr. Tufnell, and was with him in the dockyard at the Admiral Superintendent's house, and took a very active part in furthering Mr. Tufnell's election.

4661. He was not at that time a Lord of the Admiralty?—I think that he was not. The circumstance came before the House of Commons at the time. There was an inquiry instituted by the House into some transactions which had occurred in the Ordnance Office; and I think, from that circumstance, that Admiral Dundas was Clerk of the Ordnance. A gentleman was considered to have been removed very improperly, for having exercised his vote on the part of the Conservatives, and that formed the subject of the inquiry.

4662. On the 6th of May, I find a ropemaker of the name of Thomas, advanced to be a "leading man;" you said there were no promotions, is not that a promotion?—Yes, that is a promotion certainly; that is a ropemaker; that is different to the shipwrights and to leading men.

4663. But that is a promotion, is it not?—Yes.

4664. On the 21st of May, Bartlett Howard, who was "temporary ropemaker," was made an "established ropemaker," that is also a promotion, is it not?—That would be a new appointment I should consider.

4665. Haggarty, a "seaman rigger," to be an "established rigger"?—That is a purely new appointment, I take it; there are a certain number of seamen always borne on the books of the dockyard as seamen riggers; they do not belong to the establishment.

4666. But you do not consider giving a man a permanent place, after he has worked for some time in the dockyard, to be a promotion?—It is in effect a promotion, but I consider promotions to be in regular grade; a man to be an established man, and then promoted to be an officer, that I consider promotion; I hardly consider promotion to mean a man being continued in an inferior station.

4667. You spoke of the great number of superannuations that took place in the years from 1846 to 1849?—From December 1846 to February 1850.

4668. Do you know the number that took place after February 1848, or in 1848?—I think, unless I have miscounted them, there were about 200 in 1848, and without counting them, probably I may say, in 1849, they seem to be very nearly the same.

4669. There were a great number in 1848 and 1849?—Yes, the greatest proportion.

4670. Are you aware whether or not there was a revision of the dockyard recommended in those years, and that the men should be superannuated who were found to be at all past work?—Yes, I do remember that.

4671. That was in consequence of a Committee of the House of Commons, was it not?—Yes.

4672. Therefore, to some extent, that may explain the great number of superannuations that took place in those two years?—Undoubtedly it may; I only adduce that to show the means by which the Government of the day increased their patronage in the dockyards. First of all they superannuated 439 men, and they

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they replaced them by 439 others. It would be a very curious subject of inquiry to ascertain how the men that were superannuated voted, and how those that were introduced voted.

4673. You cannot give the Committee any information as to the number of superannuations that took place during the nine months from March to December 1852?—No, I have no return of that; I was asked a question just now as to the circular of 1847, whether I considered the dockyard influence decreased by that circular. I may state that if I recollect rightly, it strictly enjoins that the officers should take no part in matters of elections; but so far from that influencing the men or the officers, it does not seem that it has ever had that effect. There was an election in 1850, when there was no contest, and I find not only the principal officers of the dockyard taking part with Sir John Romilly and Mr. Tufnell, but the Committee will see by the Report that a dinner took place immediately after that election, and that the Right Honourable Henry Tufnell was supported on his right by certain names, of whom one was one of the principal officers of the dockyard, and on his left the Committee will find Sir John Romilly, and the principal parties supporting him were the principal officers of the dockyard. That is put in print; there is no holding it back. William Edye, Esq., master shipwright; S. Jenkins, Esq., storekeeper; and W. Folds, Esq.; all those are the principal officers of the dockyard. That dinner was held at the Royal Hotel on the Friday preceding the 23d of October 1850.

4674. Sir *B. Hall.*] Was that dinner charged in the Admiralty contingencies?—Unquestionably not; it was an election dinner; it was a dinner given, and I only speak of it because, if the Admiralty order is to have an effect upon one class of officers, it ought to have an effect upon another. Besides, I had an opportunity too of hearing what Commodore Seymour said here the other day, as to what took place between him and Mr. Edye, and I can only say, that at the very first public meeting held at Devonport before the last election, at which Sir John Romilly, as Master of the Rolls, came to address the constituents, the first two, I believe, for I was unwell, and was obliged to be taken to the place; I was there before anybody arrived; and the first two men were the master shipwright and the first assistant, and they had an opportunity of seeing every man of the dockyard come in and see what part he took in the proceedings. At the hustings, too, it was equally notorious that the master shipwright and his assistant were there; there is no disguise; they always take a very active part in politics; and when it is said that an officer should not be promoted in the same dockyard out of which he has come, Mr. Edye and the first assistant are instances to the contrary. When I began election matters, the first assistant was, I believe, a common shipwright in the dockyard; he had not advanced beyond a leading man; but he was an active partisan of Sir Edward Codrington. Now he is first assistant at the dockyard; and, I believe almost every principal officer of the dockyard has risen in the same dockyard, with very few exceptions.

4675. Lord *Hotham.*] Mention has been made of an officer named Baldock, do you know him?—I know that he was there; I have seen him; I have no personal knowledge of him.

4676. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Do you know how many voters there are in Devonport altogether?—I think 2,407 at the last election.

4677. Yet it is your opinion, as to those 2,000 voters, that it would be for the advantage of the town that they should be put into Schedule A?—I have seen so much mischief arise in that town from the political influence that has been used, and so many cases of positive injustice, that I think it would have been better for the men if they had not been enfranchised. I had that view in 1832, and I still hold it. Since it has been known that I was to be examined before this Committee, I have received several letters from the men, entreating me not to bring their cases before the Committee, because they are afraid some evil will result to them. One of them, particularly, I did intend to speak about, because I considered it a case of very great injustice.

4678. How many of those 2,000 voters are dockyard voters, properly so called?—I do not exactly remember; I should think that they did not exceed 700, or about one-third.

4679. Lord *Hotham.*] Does that include the Ordnance voters?—Yes; the Ordnance and dockyard voters.

4680. *Chairman.*] Do you remember the case of Burt and Oram, which has been brought under the notice of this Committee?—Yes, I do.

4681. What

4681. What was your impression of that case?—I was consulted upon it: Burt was a man who had always voted with the Whigs, I believe, always until the last election; and, at the last election, he voted for one or both of the Conservative candidates; but, from a communication made to me, it appeared to have not been generally known. He called upon me one day, and told me that an order had been received in the dockyard, to send a man to Portsmouth to learn the planing machine; that he had been sent for by Mr. Edye, and he had been recommended for the situation; and he expressed himself in this way, "I hope you will not interfere to prevent my getting it." I said I should not; if I had known it at all I should not have interfered at all in the matter. I said, "You speak to me as though you were recommended. I understand from another source that you are not recommended." Then he said, "I assure you I am; it must be a mistake of yours; Mr. Edye sent for me, and examined me as to whether I would like to go, and told me that he would recommend me;" and I said, "If you make inquiries, I think you will find, that after you were sent for, another man was sent for, and he, I believe, is on his journey to Portsmouth at this moment." I have never seen him since; and he found, on returning to the yard, that although he was sent for and promised to be sent, the other man was sent.

4682. He said to you, that he hoped you would not interfere to prevent his getting it; what did that mean?—He meant, possibly, that I might have recommended to Sir George Berkeley some other person. The fact is perfectly notorious, that whatever occurs in these dockyards is known to the political partisans outside the gate, as soon almost as it occurs; and the parties fly immediately to those who they think can protect or assist them; and this man would probably consider that I had the means of recommending some other man. I was not, in any way, even consulted upon it. I did hear of it, and I was rather surprised to find that Burt, who was acknowledged to be a workman, as I heard from his own lips, had been sent for and promised to be recommended, and by the same post another recommendation had gone, especially considering that his vote on that occasion was a novel vote.

4683. This you heard from the man himself?—Yes; and when he left, I assured him that I knew it was so, and he was very much annoyed indeed about it, and said he supposed it was because upon the last occasion he had voted differently from what he had before, and it had not been found out till then.

4684. Did you make any representations to the Admiralty, or to Mr. Stafford, upon the state of things going on in the dockyard?—I did not; I mentioned it to other parties. I may say, that when we have had a new Conservative member for the borough, the member for the county has been consulted, as he would upon any Treasury or other matters; I have told Sir John Buller, many times, my view of the effect of that order of 1847.

4685. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Do you consider that the superintendents of the dockyards, from their position, are capable of forming a just opinion as to whether promotions are carried on fairly or unjustly?—I think they are scarcely so, because they are not so long in office, only for a limited period; the period is five years. Take any gentleman, especially a captain in the Navy, who has not been connected with dockyard practice, it would take him some time to acquire a thorough knowledge of the capabilities of the men.

4686. With regard to Commodore Seymour, when did he go to Devonport?—I think in the latter part of 1851; I think so.

4687. You are aware that he has stated to this Committee that he had no ground whatever for supposing that undue political influence had been used in Devonport previously to the accession of Lord Derby's Government?—I do not remember that; I dare say he did; I have never known Commodore Seymour exercise the slightest influence politically, not the slightest, as I stated before. I never applied to him myself.

4688. Do you know anything about seven men who were appointed sawyers on the 26th of April 1852, direct from the Admiralty; I will read their names, Binney, May, Ricks, Tamplin, Penicott, Riddaway, and Rouncebal?—Yes, I do remember some of those names; not the whole of them.

4689. They were appointed direct from the Admiralty, without any communication with the superintendent?—So it appears.

4690. It has been stated in evidence that two or three of those men voted for the Conservative candidate, and that the relations of the others outside also voted for them?—That is very likely.

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4691. Then the late Admiralty had a little benefit by these appointments?—I do not know that; they might; probably they were persons who would have voted as they did, whether those appointments had been obtained or not. If I had an opportunity of recommending a man for such an appointment, I should most likely go to the friend who had assisted us in troublous times, when we were out of power.

4692. You think it would be unfair to the dockyard men to disfranchise them, unless you also disfranchised the officers of the Navy?—I do, undoubtedly; having had the conduct of the elections for a long time, I know that the officers of the Navy take a very strong and decided interest in the matter, and it will be seen that they did not go without their reward. One is sorry to refer to names, especially of honourable gentlemen. At the same time, pressed as we are, we cannot help it. Upon the first occasion of the coming in of Sir Edward Codrington, Captain John Foote came down as a very active partisan; he was chairman of his committee. That was the first time that we were at all afflicted by politics in the borough. I find Captain John Foote, a gentleman whom I have associated with ever since, a very honourable and gallant officer; but I find that he is taking a most active and energetic part, and he gets himself made commander on the West Coast of Africa; he gets one son a commission in the Marines, and a staff appointment; another son a commission in the East India service; another son an appointment on the coast of Africa, and two other sons who are now post captains. With regard to those two, I am not quite sure, but I rather think they were made by the Conservative Government, so that, as far as their promotions go, it would be less than fair to say that they had not fairly earned their promotions; but at the same time the Committee will know, that unless a man is actively employed, he can have no chance of promotion, and that a naval officer, who has sons kept afloat, has a better chance of their promotion than when they are ashore; and I think that when such great rewards follow active personal services in electioneering matters, it would be an act of injustice upon the poorer men, the dockyard men, to disfranchise them, and allow the officers to keep the franchise.

4693. You knew Devonport before it was a Parliamentary borough, did you not?—Yes.

4694. Were you acquainted then with the men of the dockyard at all?—Yes, a great many of them.

4695. Do you think, as regards the work in the dockyards, that it was on the whole better done for the public before it became a borough?—I cannot speak to that at all.

4696. Was Devonport a pleasanter place to reside in before it became a borough?—I do not know; it has been a much pleasanter place to a very much larger number of persons who are now living there, than it was before.

4697. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated to the Committee, in the early part of your examination, that there were several vacancies when Lord John Russell's administration went out of office in February 1852?—They were reported to me.

4698. You heard that there were those vacancies?—Yes.

4699. You stated also that Sir George Berkeley applied to the Admiralty for the vacancies to be filled up?—I did not quite state that, I think. I intended to say that I applied to Sir George Berkeley to get him to make the application for filling up those vacancies.

4700. At what time did you make that application to Sir George Berkeley; very soon after the Government came into office in the month of March?—I think not; not so soon as that; I think at a later period than that.

4701. Can you at all recollect about what time?—No, it must have been later than that; I cannot tell the time.

4702. You stated, did you not, that when vacancies do occur, as a matter of course whatever Government may be in office, that communications are made to those persons who may be the agents, whether of the Conservative or Whig party, in reference to those vacancies?—Yes.

4703. Then did you at that time name to Sir George Berkeley, or Sir John Maxwell, any men who you thought would be good persons to fill up those vacancies?—I think I did not, because the matter continued where it was. It never came to a question as to probability of the promotions being made.

4704. Are the Committee to understand, without reference to this particular point, but speaking generally, that those gentlemen who represent the interests of the two parties, to communicate with the Members for the borough, or other political

political persons, with reference to vacancies, with the view of having them filled up?—Yes, that is so.

4705. For whom did you act as agent during the late election?—For Sir George Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell.

4706. Did you take any part in the Plymouth election too?—Mr. Mare applied to me to conduct his election, but I was unable to do so, having the charge of the Devonport election at the time upon my shoulders, and both elections going on, but I assisted Mr. Mare occasionally, and was considered to that extent his agent, though I was very little there.

4707. Did you reside in Devonport?—Yes.

4708. The Committee have heard a good deal about the way in which the elections are managed; was there anything in the management of the late election as regards the conduct of persons connected with the Admiralty, different from that which took place in former elections?—Nothing that I remember at all.

4709. Do you remember at any previous election the Secretary of the Admiralty coming down to Devonport and going round the yard with the Conservative candidates?—I do not.

4710. Do you remember at any previous election the Secretary of the Admiralty inviting political partisans to a dinner a few days before the election?—No, I remember no such case as that, except the one to which you allude; I suppose the dinner to which I was invited by Mr. Stafford.

4711. Where was the committee-room of Sir George Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell?—At a street called Cumberland-street, at the end of St. Aubyn's-street.

4712. Was that the only one?—That was the only committee-room till immediately before the election, a day or two before, when it was necessary to have ward committee-rooms just before the polling.

4713. Were there any committees held at Moorshed's Hotel?—No.

4714. Not for either party?—I do not know. Mr. Tufnell resided in that hotel, and so did Sir George Berkeley. We had none.

4715. Either for the election for Devonport, or as regards the election for Plymouth?—No.

4716. Did you see the Secretary of the Admiralty at Devonport independently of the time that you dined with him?—Yes, I saw him the day before.

4717. Had you any conversation with him as to the election?—Nothing of the sort. I had been requested some time before, when it was understood that the Secretary was about to come down to Devonport; I was asked by several persons if I would use what little influence I could to get a deputation to meet Mr. Stafford on the subject of paying ships of war, and I went to him and solicited that appointment, and got it.

4718. Nothing with reference to the election?—No; the Committee will perhaps permit me to say, as an act of justice to Mr. Stafford, that the few of us who were invited to that dinner, were, I should say the minor part of those who were there, they were principally officers in the Navy in commission, and I can most conscientiously say that, from the time we went into the room till we came out, not a single syllable was breathed about the Devonport election in any shape or way.

4719. You say that the minor part were officers?—No, we were; the persons whose names have been mentioned before this Committee, to the best of my recollection; the principal part of the persons there were officers in commission, because they appeared in full uniform.

4720. As that is a question of fact, will you state who there were there?—I have endeavoured to do so, but without success. I really do not know who the officers of the Navy were; but as far as I remember, the persons who were independently of the services they considered there were Mr. Smith, who is a solicitor at Devonport.

4721. A political agent?—He is an active Conservative; he was not an agent, I think, but he was an active partisan, and a member of Sir George Berkeley's committee, Mr. ——, Dr. Butter, Mr. Glencross, he was chairman of our committee; Admiral Maurice could hardly be so considered; he was a naval officer, though not in full pay.

4722. He was in full pay there, was he not?—No.

4723. Did he not propose one of the candidates?—Yes, he either proposed or seconded Sir John Maxwell.

4724. Mr. Triscott was there, was he not?—Yes; then I consider, so far as

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Mr. Triscott was concerned, he was the Superintendent of the Victualling Office.

4725. Was Mr. Churchward there?—No, certainly not.

4726. Who is Captain Walker?—He is the father of the gentleman of whom I spoke just now, who was appointed as clerk in the dockyard.

4727. Is he a captain in the Navy?—Yes.

4728. Did he not take an active part in politics?—Not very active; he always voted, unfortunately for himself, for the Conservative side.

4729. Had he anything to do with the yard himself?—Nothing.

4730. Who is Mr. Baker?—He was a Government contractor for the new works at Keyham.

4731. Were there any other parties present who took an active part in the election?—None that I remember.

[The Witness withdrew.

[*Note.*—The Committee received from Mr. Edye, master shipwright at Devonport, a detailed reply to the statements of Mr. Beer; but as they had no opportunity of examining Mr. Edye, they have not thought it right to insert his letter.]

The Right Honourable Sir *Francis Baring*, Bart., a Member of the House; Examined.

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4732. *Chairman.*] WHEN were you appointed First Lord of the Admiralty?—I succeeded upon Lord Auckland's death, in the beginning of January 1849; he died the 1st of January.

4733. There has been some difference in the evidence given to this Committee as to the practice in 1849 of sending recommendations from the Superintendents of the Dockyards to the Surveyor of the Navy, and as to whether or not they were so sent previously to the circular of 1849; were the submissions or recommendations sent up from the Superintendents of the Dockyards, when they came to the Admiralty, forwarded from the Admiralty to the Surveyor for his remarks?—That was, I understood, the practice of Sir Henry Ward, and it was the practice under Mr. Parker.

4734. That was the practice previously to the issue of the circular of September 1849?—Yes.

4735. What circumstances led to the issue of that circular?—The circumstances which led to the issue of that circular were these: I think, in more than one case, Sir Baldwin Walker mentioned to the Board, that the recommendations of the superintendents had not been regularly transmitted to him. The case upon which the minute was made was, that Sir Baldwin Walker, so far as I can recollect (it is very difficult to speak of circumstances at so long a distance as the Committee refer to, though I am generally accurate), Sir Baldwin Walker, after the business at Somerset House, at the Board, stated that an irregularity had been committed; that the superintendent of one of the yards had sent up a recommendation for filling up certain vacancies for labourers or shipwrights. They were not promotions, but first appointments; and that accidentally the paper had gone wrong, and had not come to him; consequently he had not given his report upon it, and that those vacancies had been filled up without his sanction, and without communication with him. That it was quite right that the vacancies should have been filled up, but if it had come before him, he would, having in some of the other yards men whom he could dispense with, have removed them to that yard where they wanted men; and that, consequently, the public service would have been done with fewer persons for a certain time, than otherwise it would have been. It was explained by Mr. Parker, the Secretary, that it was an accidental omission; but Sir Baldwin Walker then mentioned that the old practice was, that the recommendations went through the Surveyor to the Secretary; and he suggested that an alteration should be made. The subject was then discussed at the Board. It is very difficult to state the details of conversations so long ago, particularly as one business drives another out of one's mind; but I am perfectly satisfied that it was discussed at the Board. My impression is, that one of the Lords of the Admiralty, when the others assented to it, had not expressed an opinion; it was a matter of some importance, and I asked him, "Have you any objection?" and he said he had no objection, he thought it an improvement. I recollect also, at the time of the discussion, and my firm impression is, that I turned round to Mr. Parker, and I said, "This is done for the purpose of getting rid of irregularity,

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and preventing such irregularities occurring in future; but I do not consider the matter merely in that light; while you are here Parker, we have confidence in you; you are perfectly straightforward, and we have perfect confidence in you that nothing wrong will take place; but we may not have a secretary in whom we should have the same confidence, and it will be an additional check, preventing anything wrong happening." It so happened that no minute was made at the time, whether Mr. Parker took it back in order to frame more formally a minute (it was at Somerset House that the discussion took place), or whether he took it back to the Admiralty, from which the letter ought to have emanated, I do not remember, but no minute was made as a Board minute. Mr. Parker went into the country, and Sir Baldwin Walker came to me a little time afterwards, and told me that no minute was made; I told him we were perfectly agreed about it; there was no difficulty, and the minute should go forward. He asked me, I think, whether he should bring it before the Board, and I said that there was no necessity to do that; that we had already agreed to it; and it only wanted a formal minute; that he had better send it to Mr. Parker, because it related to his business; I meant Sir B. Walker to write to Mr. Parker, and say that he had spoken to me about it, and that I wished the minute to go on, and not to be delayed any longer. He did so, with a submission to Mr. Parker, and Mr. Parker transmitted that submission to me, with the proposed minute written in the form of the Admiralty, and I marked "Approved" under it. No doubt it was a First Lord's minute, and was registered as a First Lord's minute, and not as a regular Board minute; but it was not done without the knowledge and consideration of the Board. I do not mean to say that the First Lord has not a power to make a minute for the public service, if he thinks right, but in that case it was not so; it was discussed at the Board, and it was well known afterwards; the Board knew perfectly well of the minute.

4736. It is not usual for the minutes of the Board to be signed by the Lords who are present?—No, a Board minute is not signed by any Lord; the practice is, that the business is distributed, and with regard to the smaller business, the Lord who has the superintendence of that particular business, turns down the paper, and makes his minute, and initials it; that is an authority to the Secretary or to the clerk to write a letter, and the Secretary to sign it, but the proceeding rests upon that single initial, just as mine would upon my initial, so that each superintending Lord acts by his single initial; I think it has been stated that two Lords initial it; that was not so in my time.

4737. In an answer given by the Duke of Northumberland to the question whether the circular of September 1849 had the initials of the First Lord of the Admiralty at the time, he stated, that Sir Francis Baring's name would not make it a legal document, without the name of another Lord of the Admiralty; will you have the goodness to state whether, for a circular to be sent to the dockyards, the signature of the First Lord is not perfectly sufficient?—The circular would go signed by the Secretary, and stated to be in the names of the Lords of the Admiralty; it might be, if it was a Board minute, that it would not be signed by any Lord at all; if made by the First Lord, or any other, the minute would be signed and initialed by him. Whether it would be wise to make a circular without a Board minute, is another thing.

4738. When the Duke of Northumberland spoke to the Committee about its being a legal document, I suppose that must have referred rather to a warrant than to a circular or an order sent out from the Board?—Yes, a warrant is required to be signed with the signature of two Lords; I dare say there was some misunderstanding when the question was answered.

4739. In issuing that circular of September 1849, did you intend to transfer the patronage that was previously exercised at the Admiralty, of selecting a name finally to the Surveyor?—The intention of it was this, to secure that everything should go through the Surveyor; it was never intended that the Surveyor could appoint against the decision of the Lords of the Admiralty; the Surveyor may be an impartial person to execute the functions, but the Admiralty is responsible for all the patronage; it is their duty to do it, and they are bound to see it done rightly. Our anxiety was, that it should go through a responsible officer whom we thought the best channel, and from whom the recommendation should come; no doubt the Board might not have attended to any recommendations of the Surveyor.

4740. The Board exercised their own discretion as to the submissions of the superintendents and the observations of the Surveyor?—The Secretary, practically

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in the smaller appointments, exercised a superintending discretion; but I believe practically, Mr. Parker rarely interfered, if ever, with the recommendations of Sir Baldwin Walker, but, of course, he was satisfied that the recommendations were right.

4741. With regard to all the more important appointments in the dockyards, to whom were they brought in your time?—To me.

4742. Then upon those, had you equally the recommendations of the superintendents and the observations of the Surveyor?—As to master shipwrights, the Surveyor came to me direct.

4743. What appointments were there in the dockyards that came to you from the recommendations of the superintendents?—Those appointments that came from the superintendents, were appointments that went to the Secretary.

4744. Were any complaints ever brought to your notice respecting the conduct of the Surveyor, with reference to promotions in the dockyards?—No complaints direct as to the conduct of the Surveyor; there were constant complaints, of course, of friends, who are always under the impression that the officers of the yards and the authorities were jobbing against them. There were those sort of complaints, I quite admit. I have not the least reason to doubt the fairness of the Surveyor.

4745. Complaints that the recommendations that came up made by the principal officers of the yards, and sent through the superintendents of the yards, were not fair towards the men?—Yes; complaints that A. B. ought to have been promoted, instead of the man who was promoted; and when one stated that those recommendations were made by the superintendents of the yards, and through the recommendations of the officers, the answer was, "But those officers are all, in their hearts Tories, and they recommend Tories to the Government." I rather put an end to these communications; but I never remember a time in which the discontented people did not say that the officers in the yard were working against the Government. I have had complaints, I believe, not against the Surveyor, but I have had complaints, I think anonymously, with regard to the practice of the yards. When those cases were made by Members of Parliament or others, my practice was to explain the mode in which the promotions were made. If they pressed me, my answer was, that we could not at all attend to those representations; but if they had any case in which they could show that any officer of a yard had recommended from private affection or from party zeal, I begged them to put it down on paper, and to let me have it; and I promised that there should be the most searching inquiry, and nothing should have saved a man if he had been found guilty. As to communications which are had, sometimes with names and sometimes without, as to the dockyards, I think I had a few, probably Mr. Parker had more; but in a case where, with regard to promotion or anything else, anonymous or with a name, if there were facts stated, I dealt with it; if it was a mere vague letter of accusation, which had no facts in it, I dealt with it very summarily; but if there was anything like a statement of facts, I always thought it better to send it to the Surveyor, superintendent, or to some authority, and ask him to let me have such an explanation, or make such inquiry, as would enable me to see whether it was worth while to go on with the case; and I have had some information, which I have afterwards acted upon, not with regard to promotions, I made a mistake myself, and I was very much obliged to the person; he wrote to me and said that there was a mistake made; I made inquiry, and I found he was quite right, and I had the mistake corrected.

4746. A letter of yours, addressed to the different superintendents of the dockyards, upon receiving their appointment, has been read, a letter, strictly binding them as gentlemen holding the office of superintendents of public establishments, not to interfere in any way in politics; had anything occurred that led you to issue that very stringent letter to them?—I have represented a town where there is a dockyard, and whether rightly or wrongly, (I believe it is greatly exaggerated,) but there was the strongest impression as to Government interference; when I came to the Admiralty, I thought that not only I was bound by Lord Auckland's minutes, but my own strong feeling was to do all in my power to get rid of it. In the appointments that I made of superintendents, I was extremely careful that they were not made in any shape from political recommendations whatever; I selected the officer whom I thought the best; and I can state the reasons why I selected each officer that was appointed, if the Committee wish it. After consideration, I thought on the whole, dealing with honourable men, in a profession where honour is the principle of the profession, that perhaps the best tie that I could put upon them was, that they should give me personally their honour, as gentlemen

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to gentlemen, that they would not interfere at all. I was not aware that those letters would ever become subjects of public discussion; they were marked private and confidential, but these officers had perfect permission to show them to the Committee. I think there may be some mistakes as to some cases, some inaccuracies and omissions, in a hurry. They did not all make the same pledge; but it was my intention in every case of the home appointments, even the Admirals upon the home stations, and captains of ordinaries, and every appointment, when I thought they were likely to interfere in politics, to insist on the same pledge.

4747. But were you satisfied with the conduct of the superintendents in the dockyards, in regard to political interference, that they did not interfere?—Yes, I had the greatest confidence in them, and I had the greatest reliance that they did perform their engagement while I was there, most honourably. I cannot help seeing what other people see in the newspapers, with regard to Captain Richards. As to Captain Richards, I do not know his politics to this day. All I know is, that I selected and appointed him from the high character which he had in the service, and from the circumstance that he had been at Pembroke, and that the Committee of Revision, and everybody who spoke of that yard, spoke of it as being in high order, and from my own opinion of him; after I had appointed him, I was told that his connexions were opposed to the Government to which I then belonged. I saw him several times, and I had communications with him upon other matters connected with the yard; perhaps they are not strictly dockyard appointments, but I am bound to say, that if he was working for the Liberal party, he did it in the most bungling way imaginable; he cautioned me in some cases not to do things which he thought I might be led to do. I do not want to state the circumstances, but he cautioned me and warned me, and he did, I think, everything he could to help to prevent politics in any shape interfering in that yard, and this even beyond his yard duty; I felt very much obliged to him, not only because he did his duty, but because I felt that he perfectly understood me, and that he believed that I was honest in my intentions.

4748. If you were satisfied with the superintendents, were any circumstances that you can remember ever brought to your notice which gave you a distrust of the principal officers in any of the dockyards, who had the first initiative in those recommendations?—No, I never remember anything which led me to believe that they misused their power; of course, as I said before, I may have received anonymous charges, but being in the practice of never allowing any anonymous charge which had facts stated in it to remain without making some inquiry, nothing rests upon my mind against the officers of the yard.

4749. Was it ever brought to your knowledge in any way, that for entries in the yards, or for promotions, money had been given to persons in the yards?—Yes, I received an anonymous communication that money was given, and that places were bought at Devonport; that communication gave me no facts; but it gave me a great deal of discomfort, and I was some days in great difficulty as to the course I should take. The course I did take was this: I mentioned it to Mr. Parker, and warned him, and I believe I mentioned it to Sir Baldwin Walker. I do not think it signifies much whether I did or not; but I mentioned it to Mr. Tufnell, and I showed him the letter, and told him that this letter had come to me, and had occasioned me considerable discomfort. Mr. Tufnell pressed me very much to make an inquiry. He was, as the Committee may suppose, very indignant, and he pressed me to make an inquiry. My answer was, "No, I will make no inquiry, there is nothing here to make inquiry upon; it is a mere general assertion; there are no means to enable me to get at the facts; wait a little while, and I am pretty sure, if this story is rife in the yard, it will come to my ears in some shape or other, so that I can get at it." I was not quite wrong, for very soon afterwards I heard that a gentleman, in conversation, had mentioned the same story, and I had him sent for; he wrote a letter to state that he knew nothing himself, but he had only heard it from others; but I got names. I then sent down Sir Baldwin Walker to inquire; he did make an investigation, and he could make nothing of it; there was not a case to go to an official inquiry. My object was, in sending down Sir B. Walker, to see if I could make a case. These accusations are very easily made. Perhaps I may mention, if the Committee are not aware, that I had to prosecute a person for selling an office in my name; I was obliged to appear and convict. It shows, therefore, that things may be done by rogues, under other names, and you cannot always laugh at these charges.

4750. Then, as you did institute this inquiry, and it satisfied your mind that you

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you could make nothing of it, did it satisfy you that such a practice never occurred?—This was satisfactory, that I got no repetition of the charge. I think that these inquiries get out in the yard; they are pretty well known; the things that happen at the Admiralty, somehow or other, always get known. I am sure it must have been known in the yard that something had been going on upon that subject. I never heard from that anonymous correspondent again, and I think if there had been anybody who could have given me information, that knowing I was ready to inquire, I should have had some information sent to me. I found, generally speaking, that the effect of inquiry was to stop those anonymous charges; where there were groundless accusations, you heard no more of them. The moment you sent down, people found that you were not influenced by mere anonymous imputations, but that you looked into it to see whether the things were right or wrong.

4751. In the evidence that has been given to the Committee, Commodore Seymour read a letter of yours to him, dated the 26th of August 1851, upon his appointment, and in that letter you use these words, "I need not say that the condition of non-interference in local politics attaches to every yard; and if possible, I attach more importance to it at Devonport than anywhere else." Was it from any circumstance connected with the principal officers of the yard there, that you were led more strongly to press upon him in that yard the condition of non-interference?—No, that is rather loosely expressed; these letters to the superintendents were all confidential letters, and therefore you must not measure the English very accurately; but I do not think that Devonport had the worst character. Perhaps I may put Portsmouth higher than other people may, but Chatham, I think, had the worst character, and I think Devonport came next. I do not say that it is true or not, but I think in the service generally, the notion was, that of Chatham there was the worst impression, and of Devonport next. There was another reason, it so happened that Devonport was represented by Mr. Tufnell, and I was connected with him by marriage; that is probably what I alluded to at the time.

4752. Was not there an election in 1850 at Devonport?—Not an election.

4753. It has been stated that there was a political dinner given in 1850, and that Mr. Tufnell and Sir John Romilly attended, with the principal officers of the dockyard, not the superintendent, sitting on their right and left hands; were any such circumstances brought to your knowledge?—I do not remember; I do not think that any circumstances of that kind were brought to my knowledge; I do not think it wise, I think it very unwise. The Committee must recollect that many of those officers were appointed before I came into office, and had made no pledge, therefore they may not have considered themselves bound by anything but the rules of the Admiralty; it must not be supposed by the Committee that they broke their words to me. If the Committee ask my opinion, I should say, if those officers had come to me, I should have told them that it was a very indiscreet and unwise thing to do, but I know that it has been done; in olden times it used to be done, and more than that.

4754. When you appointed any of the principal officers in the yard, did you give them the advice which you have now stated to the Committee, as to showing themselves to be political partisans, and the same injunctions to the superintendent of the yard?—In all appointments, to the best of my knowledge; there may have been an accidental omission. It is true, as Captain Rich states, that he had not that pledge; I have referred to my letter, and it is quite true. There was a great hurry as to his appointment, and I omitted to make that condition; but in all cases, to the best of my recollection (and certainly it was my intention), I made the same condition that they should not interfere in local politics. It is difficult to fix in words what you really mean, but it was pretty well understood what I meant. In one case I thought a person had been an active Liberal, and I particularly pointed out to him that I insisted upon his not interfering in politics, and that no politics should interfere with his recommendations.

4755. The Committee are to understand that you sent this injunction generally, not only to the superintendents, but to the master shipwrights and the principal storekeepers?—Yes, I believe to all, to the storekeepers, certainly; and to the surgeons, to the chaplains, to the admirals on the command, the captains of ordinaries, and in any case when I thought they were likely to interfere in elections. I thought it an advantage to press them not to interfere. When they had votes, I did not prevent them voting, but most of them had no votes.

4756. Do you remember sending an injunction of that kind to Mr. Triscott, the

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the storekeeper?—Yes; I apprehend the case was this: I have not got the letter, as I did not know that I should be examined to-day. I believe that Mr. Triscott has stated quite correctly what took place; the case was this: his appointment was sent to him, and soon after it was observed that the condition had not been put into his letter of appointment; and then subsequently, a letter was sent, saying, that I considered it was upon the understanding that he was not to interfere in local politics. I do not recollect getting an answer, but I took it for granted, if a gentleman accepted an appointment, and had that letter, his silence meant that he took it under that understanding.

4757. Did you, by local politics, mean that the position which he gained by the appointment you conferred upon him should not be used for political purposes?—No doubt; my meaning was, you may vote, but do not you be upon the committees; do not make an appearance as a partisan of either party; do not either use your power improperly for electioneering purposes, or make an appearance.

4758. The Committee have received a great deal of evidence as to the desirability of depriving persons in the dockyards of their votes. Will you state to the Committee your opinion upon that?—I have thought of that question very often, and my impression is, that you will not cure jobbing in the yards by any law of that kind. I believe that it is perfectly possible to prevent jobbing in the dockyards, if you are in earnest at head-quarters. When I was at head-quarters, my conviction was, that after Lord Auckland's arrangements, we were improving very much in that way, and that gradually a better tone was getting into the yards than there was before. It will be some time before you can convince the dockyard men that you are really honest; they would be very slow indeed to believe that, they have been cheated so often. If you can persuade them by a steady adherence for some time to a system in which politics do not interfere in promotion, I believe you may put an end to jobbing in the yards; but I do not believe that you will put an end to it by disfranchising the voters. I will promise the Committee, that if I had been at the Admiralty, and if it had been my wish to job, I would have jobbed, and made as much use of the promotions for electioneering purposes, if all those dockyard men were disfranchised, as if they had not been disfranchised. The applications are from the relations, and you may, by promoting one man, satisfy a large body of his connexions and of his family. You may disfranchise the place, and perhaps that would be effective; but as for disfranchising a small body of electors in a place, I do not believe that it would be effective; there are general objections to that course, which I do not wish to state.

4759. Lord *Hotham.*] You would not think it an improvement to put the dockyard men on the same footing as persons employed in the collection of the revenue?—I admit, if you were to do that, if there are 200 voters in the dockyard, so far as they are concerned, you will get rid of 200 votes; but I think there is great misapprehension about these dockyard men; there is no doubt, as in all other classes, a certain number who are admitted into the dockyard who have no political opinions, and who look out to make their interest the means of getting on, but there are a great many respectable persons who are as much attached to their opinions as your Lordship and I are, and they will stand by them; I have known that, and I think, if the Committee look at the returns of the elections, they will be very much surprised to find how many of those dockyard men are consistent supporters of their opinions, whichever party is in power; I think it will be found very remarkable. In the case of the Customs, the system was tried; that was very early; you took away the votes of all in the Customs service. Well, did you stop jobbing in the Customs? Certainly not. Within my recollection I can remember that the highest offices of the Customs were given away notoriously from political influence. I am not speaking of the smaller promotions, or the lower offices; I can recollect that the agent of one party, and a connexion of an influential family of the other, were appointed to the higher offices of the Customs for no other reasons but that they were party-men. They turned out good officers. What was afterwards done was, the Treasury abandoned its patronage, and sent the patronage to the Customs. There you did stop jobbing. The Treasury said to the Customs, "We will take the original appointments, but promotion shall go by merit; but you will be responsible, remember, to us; we will check you; but send in names, and we will appoint those names." I believe ever since that time the Customs has been gradually growing better; nothing is perfect under the sun, but I believe that the promotions in the Customs are fairly given. It was something like what the Admiralty have done.

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4760. But are they not precluded from voting?—Yes, but your Lordship will see, that from the year 1782, for 20 or 30 years, they were precluded from voting, but that did not prevent jobbing in promotions; it was not getting rid of the votes, that prevented jobbing; but the moment that you dealt with the patronage at head-quarters, and the Treasury were honest then, the change was a real change; you got rid of jobbing.

4761. I did not mean to suggest that precluding the dockyard men from voting should be a substitution for the order that you gave, but whether, in addition to that, you did not think that it would tend to the good of the public service?—My impression is, that it will not prevent jobbing; I quite admit that it may take away a certain number of votes, and that over those votes Government have a certain degree of influence; that I quite admit; but whether it is wise entirely to take away Government influence, and whether it is worth your while to introduce new principles as to the elective franchise, those are the general questions; I think that the very slightest advantage would arise, and that the principle that you would introduce would be so inconvenient and mischievous, that it would not be wise to make the change.

4762. You do not think that the public service would be benefited by it?—No; jobbing does not depend on the clerks having votes or not; in some departments, where the officers have votes, promotions are perfectly fair; the Committee must know, for instance, at the Treasury itself; the clerks of the Treasury have votes, and I never recollect (I was Secretary to the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer) having received any application whatever to promote one person on political grounds, or to appoint one person instead of another; I never remember that either in the Admiralty office; I never received an application of that kind, yet they had all votes; you have a very strong check, you are very much under the public eye and public opinion, and you cannot do it.

4763. *Chairman.*] During your administration of the Admiralty, was it a part of the duty of the Surveyor to superintend the preparation of the Estimates in any way?—Yes, the Surveyor has a great deal to do with the Estimates, of course.

4764. He has a great deal to do with the Estimates; for instance, considering what vote must be taken for wages next year, and for works in the dockyards?—Yes, no doubt; there is a programme. Such ships are to be brought forward, and such work done; the programme extended beyond a single year; of course, it depends, as to doing any work, upon how many men you will require; and therefore the efficiency of the yard very much affects the sum you require. I always took ample estimates. I was anxious not to exceed the Estimates; I thought it better to take a larger sum and not spend it, than a small sum and spend over it. I had Sir Baldwin Walker to consult with regard to settling the amount of wages when I last framed the Estimates. In that discussion I told him that I was afraid he was taking too low a sum for wages. I said, "How is this? Three years ago you made a programme, and that programme was founded upon the supposition that a certain number of dockyard men were employed; now you assure me that you can carry out that programme, and that yet you have taken the wages for a very much reduced number of men; I do not understand how that arises;" and his answer was, "Why, the truth is, the dockyards are so much improved since the regulations have been introduced, that I get out of a smaller number of men, as much work as I got out of a larger number." That was rather a striking illustration of the effect of a fair administration in the dockyard.

4765. Are the Committee to understand that Sir Baldwin Walker in that conversation gave you as his opinion, that he got more work out of the men, because their promotion was fairly given to them?—That was one of the causes, as I understood him; of course there was the general care and the general superintendence of the yard.

4766. It has been brought to the notice of the Committee, that there were a great many superannuations in the year 1849; when there were to be superannuations, was a report before the superannuations were made sent up through the Surveyor to the Admiralty, do you remember?—I do not remember how that is.

4767. You do not remember how the superannuations were ultimately fixed?—I believe I can tell the Committee how it happened that there were a considerable number of superannuations at the time, we were reducing the yards in 1849; there was a very considerable reduction in the yards, and the consequence was, that the older and more feeble men were superannuated; that was the best way, both for the conduct of public service, and the men in the dockyard; you took the older men, who probably might have hung on for a year or two more, and retired them, leaving the

the more efficient men; all reductions are accompanied with an increase of retired allowances; I have no doubt that was the reason.

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4768. Mr. *Beckett.*] You have favoured the Committee with your opinion as to the disfranchisement of the dockyard voters: if that were carried into effect, it would not take away the political pressure as to the first appointments?—Not the least; you may transfer it from one place to another, but you cannot get rid of it. If the Government have a certain number of appointments, they will give them to their political supporters; a certain quantity will go to those who gain public claims, as, in these cases, they, generally speaking, will take the representations of their friends.

4769. Sir *B. Hall.*] Was Sir Henry Ward, Secretary to the Admiralty?—Yes; he was with me for a short time.

4770. It was stated that this expression was used in the House of Commons, and I wish to ask a question, because Mr. Parker's name was mentioned, "While the present Sir Henry Ward held the office of Secretary to the Admiralty, the regulation was found to work well enough under his vigorous administration; but when he was succeeded by the late Mr. Parker, the case became quite altered." Did Mr. Parker carry on the administration, so far as he was concerned, in the same way as Sir Henry Ward?—I believe he carried it on the same principles as Sir Henry Ward.

4771. Equally to your satisfaction?—I cannot speak too highly of the straightforward conduct of Mr. Parker, during the time that I was connected with him; I had acted with him at the Treasury for 15 years. In fact, though it is true that the principles of the administration were laid down by Lord Auckland, and by myself, it was Sir Henry Ward and Mr. Parker who practically carried them out. If they had not been perfectly firm in their administration, you might lay down what principles you please; it is the person who carries them out, upon whom it will mainly turn.

4772. If it was suggested that Mr. Parker did not carry out those general points of his duty quite in as vigorous a way as Sir Henry Ward, any such imputation was quite unfounded?—Everybody has a different mode of carrying on business. Mr. Parker was a remarkably quiet man; Sir Henry Ward wrote a good deal, and he was extremely active; and I dare say Mr. Parker, in the main, was much quieter in doing business than Sir Henry Ward, but in their principles there was not the slightest difference, I believe, between the one and the other.

4772*. *Chairman.*] Have you anything more to state?—I should like to state one thing to the Committee; I know that there is an impression, that the First Lord of the Treasury is in the habit of pressing the Admiralty, and that the Admiralty are obliged to yield to that pressure. I think it but fair, as an inquiry of this kind has taken place, to state, that when I took office I had not been accustomed to patronage. Perhaps I had different notions of patronage from many other parties, and I therefore felt it my duty, before I took office, to speak to Lord John Russell upon the subject; and Lord John Russell at once stated his views of patronage, which left me perfectly at liberty; not only at liberty to follow my own views, but Lord John Russell expressed his own views, which perfectly concurred with mine, that the promotions should entirely be for the public service, and not for gaining political influence. And not only that, but I am bound to say that, through the whole of my career at the Admiralty, nothing could be more handsome than Lord John Russell's communications with me; he never pressed me for any promotion whatever, and I owe him much for the steady support which he gave me; if there has been any merit in the proceedings of the late Admiralty, I think that it ought to be understood that I was carrying out Lord John Russell's directions; and if I had acted otherwise, it would have been against his wishes, and against his instructions.

Augustus Stafford, Esquire, a Member of the House; further Examined.

A. Stafford, Esq. M. P.

4773. *Chairman.*] YOU sent for some papers to explain the position of the Surveyor as to those submissions, and as to the practice of the Admiralty?—I have now before me the General Instructions for Her Majesty's Dockyards, dated 1st of January 1849.

4774. Did those instructions contain the instructions which I have in this volume, called "Instructions to the Five Principal Officers"?—I think not; Mr. Pennell is conversant with these matters. I will just read an extract from the

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Regulations of 1844: "All reports from the officers of the yard shall be made to and transmitted, when necessary, by the superintendent to our Secretary, for our information and direction (page 2). In those of Her Majesty's dockyards at which there is no superintendent, references are to be directed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, or the Commander-in-Chief, if abroad, on all points of importance, and all letters and public documents are also to be so addressed (page 12). You are daily to correspond with our Secretary, acquainting him with the transactions of the yard, and acknowledging the receipt of all orders, warrants, and letters, stating also the daily transactions of the port, the arrival and departure of any of Her Majesty's ships, and other circumstances relative to the works going forward in the yard (page 16). You are to report all vacancies, without exception, that occur in the dockyard; and when any vacancy, occasioned by promotion or otherwise shall occur, you are, after consulting the officer in whose department such vacancy may happen, to forward to the Admiralty the names of persons belonging to the yard fit, from ability and character, to succeed to the vacancy." Those are extracts to the superintendent of 1844; the Committee seemed, by the question they put to me, to think, that in my speech, I still entertained suspicions as to the political character of the superintendents.

4775. Do you consider that those dockyard instructions superseded the instructions to the principal officers of the civil department of the Navy?—Yes, I considered them, with the code of 1847 and the circular of 1849, to contain the whole of what was then in operation.

4776. Is there among them any general instructions at all to the Surveyor of the Navy?—I think not.

4777. If that contained the whole, where were the general instructions to the Surveyor of the Navy?—I do not see any to him then.

4778. Do you suppose that the Surveyor to the Navy, the principal officer in the civil department, was acting without any general instructions?—No; the directions to him were contained in Lord Auckland's letter of 1847.

4779. This was issued in 1847; those dockyard instructions, then, did not supersede some instructions which were then in existence as to the Surveyor of the Navy?—I think Lord Auckland's letter, given in his evidence on the Naval Estimates, to Sir Henry Ward, was "to reconstruct."

4780. The Committee did not wish in any way to bind you to any exact words in your speech; what they wished was to ascertain from you the general impression which you conveyed to the House in your speech?—I quite understood that, but I thought the idea of the Committee was, that while I quoted those anonymous communications as some of the reasons for which I had found myself under the obligation of cancelling, or making some alteration in their existing system, I had not, in any subsequent part of my speech, qualified it so as to remove a suspicion or imputation that might have been conveyed by those extracts to the superintendents.

4781. If you did so qualify it, will you state it?—This is an extract from the report of my speech in the "Morning Chronicle": "I can only say, that in conversation with Commodore Eden upon this subject, he stated to me, with true sailor-like frankness, I have my own political opinions, but I know nothing of politics in the yard; but this I know, that if you send me unfit men, I shall send them neck and heels into the street, and I believe that every superintendent would have done the same thing; and I consider I should be acting dishonestly if, after the communication I have had with these gentlemen, in the most frank and friendly spirit, I did not now state, that I believe they would not have stood by with folded hands if I had attempted to perpetrate a political job in their department, but that they would have sent remonstrances to the Board, exonerating themselves from the responsibility." Without binding myself to any particular words, the Committee will see that the animus of the speech was not opposed to the superintendents.

4782. Having made that strong statement as to the superintendents, you left then an apparent imputation rather more strongly, upon the Surveyor's department?—I before stated, that after the communications came direct, I had no further communications with the Surveyor's department, except from his own particular submissions.

4783. Would not the natural inference be, that there was something like political jobbing going on; that when you took this power from the Surveyor by means of your circular of the 19th of April, you felt perfect satisfaction in the conduct

conduct of the superintendents?—If I had not previously stated to the House, as over and over again I have done to this Committee, that I did not go upon anything except general rumour and oral communications, which, taken collectively, might have weighed with me sufficiently, but taken individually, were not such cases as I could bring forward.

4784. Sir *Benjamin Hall.*] The Superintendents and the Surveyor having now been relieved from all imputation, I wish to ask you a question in reference to Mr. Parker. You said in your speech, "While the present Sir Henry Ward held the office of Secretary to the Admiralty, the regulations were found to work well enough under his vigorous administration; but when he was succeeded by Mr. Parker, the case became quite altered." I understand that those were the words you used. Then for the purpose of elucidating that statement, which seems something like an imputation upon Mr. Parker, you say, "I solicit the attention of the House to the two letters which I now hold in my hand. The first is to the following effect: 'When the Whigs in 1848 began to feel their power declining, they thought it necessary to fall on some plan for continuing a system which would, even if they retired from office, still leave the dockyard in their grasp.'" Those were anonymous letters, which you read for the purpose of strengthening the information which you gave to the House as to Mr. Parker?—Yes. All I meant was this; it is my firm conviction now, that if Sir Henry Ward had remained at the Admiralty, he would not have acquiesced in the circular of 1849; but as Sir Francis Baring has said, Mr. Parker, being a more quiet man, surrendered it; that is all I meant to say of Mr. Parker. All my knowledge of him, and all the traces I could find of him, enable me most fully to confirm the statement of Sir Francis Baring, that a more honourable and upright public servant never existed in the world.

4785. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] In the early part of your examination to-day, you alluded to some sort of understanding between the Surveyor's department and the Superintendent's, which did not appear quite to give you satisfaction?—It was represented to me, that relations of the subordinates in Somerset House were at the dockyard, and there was a suspicion that a system of nepotism was going forward.

4786. This sort of supposed collusion between the two departments referred to the subordinates, and not to the higher officials?—No; I have said, over and over again, that it never applied to Sir Baldwin Walker.

4787. Mr. Edye has been mentioned?—Will the Committee permit me to say this, which I am sure will have the sanction of the Honourable Member who said it to me, as I have been charged with imputing to Captain Richards political motives. Mr. Masters Smith came up to me the night before last in the House of Commons, and began a conversation by saying, "Why do you impute political motives to Captain Richards. I have known him a long time, and I never knew what his politics were." As I had stated that I had heard he was the strongest political partisan in the yard, the Committee will feel that I am anxious to state what was entirely voluntary on the part of Mr. Smith. I am perfectly certain that, under the circumstances of the case, that he would not only be pleased, but anxious that I should make this statement, as the best testimony that I can offer to Captain Richards. I would ask the permission of the Committee to hand in this letter, which has been forwarded to me in reference to Mr. Cotsell.

[*The same was handed in, and is as follows:*]

"Patricroft, near Manchester,
2 July 1846.

"My Dear Sir,

"Allow me to congratulate you on your recent appointment to the office of master smith at Chatham; this I do with all sincerity and high pleasure to see your merits acknowledged in the proper way.

"I trust you have had the appointment in question accompanied by all that can make it gratifying and acceptable to you; and I trust that the attention which your zeal has received from high quarters, has been one of the elements in your selection and promotion.

"Believe me, &c.,
(signed) "*James Nasmyth,*"
(Member of the Committee on Metals.)

"Mr. George Cotsell."

Charles Henry Pennell, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

C. H. Pennell, Esq.

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4788. *Chairman.*] ARE you in the department of the Admiralty in which the instructions for the dockyards are prepared?—Yes.

4789. When were the last General Dockyard Instructions prepared?—In 1844.

4790. Did that volume of Dockyard Instructions contain any instructions for the five principal officers of the Civil Department of the Admiralty?—It did not.

4791. Under what code of regulations were the five principal officers of the department supposed to be acting, when those instructions of 1849 were issued, or were any other instructions issued at the same time for the five principal officers?—There was a Code of Instructions issued to the five principal officers in 1832, and also in 1844.

4792. Then that is a separate thing?—Yes, from the Dockyard Instructions.

4793. The Dockyard Instructions did not supersede any instructions to the five principal officers?—No. The instructions of 1844 to the five principal officers modified, in some measure, the previous regulations of 1832 to those officers.

4794. There was a letter of instructions written, or a paper of that kind, in 1848, I think, in the time of Lord Auckland, to the Surveyor-general; do you remember that paper?—Yes; there was a new instruction sent to the Surveyor of the Navy, with some alterations in it; I remember the circumstance.

4795. Can you remember whether or not that superseded the instructions under which he was previously acting?—Wherein it differed from any other instructions which he had previously received, it must be held to supersede them, as being more recent.

4796. Was it such a form of instruction, can you recollect, as to put aside altogether the former instructions?—By no means; the latter instruction was based upon the former.

4797. Can you state what the instruction was previous to 1847, with reference to the communications from the superintendents of the dockyards?—I am not personally aware of what the practice was; but I infer from the regulation of 1849, that the practice was to send them to the Secretary of the Admiralty direct.

[The Witness withdrew.

Rear-Admiral The Honourable Sir *F. F. Berkeley*, a Member of the House; Examined.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. Sir *F. F. Berkeley*, M. P.

4798. *Chairman.*] YOU wish to state something to this Committee?—In consequence of what has been stated as to the political character of Captain Richards, I wish to put in a letter which I have received from Lord Enfield, "Eaton Square, 11th May 1853. My dear Berkeley,—I represented Chatham (with the exception of a few months) from the period of its first enfranchisement under the Reform Act, until the last election. During that time, as you may imagine, I knew something, and heard still more, of the various superintendents, and I never was more surprised than to find in Mr. Stafford's evidence before the Dockyard Committee, that 'Captain Richards was a violent Liberal partisan;' and again, 'that his partisanship was notorious.' I have not the honour to be acquainted with Captain Richards, but if such had been his tendency, or such his character, I should have heard of it, and have moreover been spared the constant complaints of my supporters, that the superintendent's sympathy pointed in an opposite direction. My own firm belief is, and I had many opportunities of judging, that Captain Richards obeyed most rigidly and faithfully the injunctions of Sir Francis Baring, and that his inflexible neutrality is as notorious in Chatham as it was unpalatable to a portion of the constituency. You may show this letter, if you please, to Captain Richards; it is wrung from me by what I know to be a groundless accusation. Yours sincerely, *Enfield.*"

Veneris, 13° *die Maii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Lord Hotham.
Mr. Beckett.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Sir Henry Ferguson Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

The Right Hon. the Earl of *Derby* (attending by permission of the House of Lords); Examined.

The Right Hon. the Earl of *Derby*.

13 May 1853.

4799. *Chairman.*] IN consequence of a statement which has been made to this Committee, I wish to ask your Lordship whether, upon the formation of your government, you made any stipulation or condition with the Duke of Northumberland respecting the promotions and patronage at the Admiralty?—When I first formed the government, and asked the Duke of Northumberland to do me the honour of accepting the office of First Lord of the Admiralty, the only condition which I made with him was this: that he was to have the entire and absolute selection of the naval members of the Board; he was to choose what members of the service he thought most likely to be conducive to the public advantage; and that he was to have the whole absolute control over the appointments and over the promotions, so far as they related to the naval service of the country. I did go so far as to require that, in accordance with the usual practice, two, at least, of the Naval Lords should be members of the House of Commons; and I certainly now regret that I did not add a further condition, namely, that upon their first appointment they should be, if possible, persons who were conversant with parliamentary habits and parliamentary practice.

4800. Are the Committee to understand that your Lordship thinks that inconvenience to the public service arose from the Lords of the Admiralty not being sufficiently conversant with parliamentary practice?—I think this inconvenience arose: that perhaps, as between them, not being connected with the House of Commons, and the Secretary to the Admiralty being connected with the House of Commons, there was not that thorough appreciation of their relative position, and of the demands that would be made upon them respectively, which there would have been if the Naval Lords had been personally conversant with the management of the business of the House of Commons.

4801. Are the Committee to understand that you did not make any arrangements with the Duke of Northumberland respecting the transfer of the civil patronage of the Admiralty to the Secretary?—None whatever. I never even heard of the transaction till subsequently. I considered the Duke of Northumberland responsible for the administration of the department of the Admiralty.

4802. It has been given in evidence before this Committee, that Mr. Stafford stated that he was under pressure from yourself and from the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the distribution of the patronage; the Committee are desirous of ascertaining from your Lordship whether that is the fact?—I should be very much surprised to hear that Mr. Stafford had made such a statement, because I have a high opinion of Mr. Stafford's personal honour. He must have known that it was entirely inconsistent with the fact, and that there was not the slightest foundation for it.

4802*. Is there any other information which you are desirous of giving to the Committee?—Not any. I am here at the disposal of the Committee, to give them all such information as they may require, short of repeating private conversations, or producing private letters, neither of which I should think myself justified in doing.

The Right Hon. *Henry Tufnell*, a Member of The House; Examined.

Right Hon. *H. Tufnell*, M.P.

4803. *Chairman.*] IT has been stated in this Committee, that on the occasion of the last election some one of the Government officers, I think the master shipwright, Mr. Edye, was an active partisan of your interests in the borough of Devonport, and that you walked through the streets of Devonport with him when you were upon your canvass; was that so?—If he was an active partisan of mine,

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I had no opportunities of ascertaining that he was so; with respect to walking through the streets of Devonport with him, I will state what took place. One day, as I was walking alone from St. Aubyn's-street to Fore-street, (these are two streets that run at right angles to each other,) at the corner of St. Aubyn's-street, I met Mr. Edye; I had been acquainted with him for, I should say, nearly 20 years; I knew him long before I was politically connected with Devonport; I did join him then, and I walked with him, about 200 yards, to Wheatley's hotel; I there left him, and entered the hotel. That was the only time, so far as my remembrance goes, that I ever walked with Mr. Edye during the last election.

4804. The Committee have been informed that Mr. Edye was upon the hustings, upon one occasion, at the last election?—He may have been; but the hustings were so crowded, that I have no recollection of it.

4805. It has also been stated that you went to the chapel in the dockyard, to Mr. Edye's pew, I think, upon one occasion, which showed that he was a partisan of yours; was that at the time of the election?—Yes, it was at the time of the election; I will state to the Committee that, at every election that has taken place before, I have always gone to that chapel; and so did my opponent, Mr. Dawson; and at the time we never thought of finding fault with each other for doing so. I have been since informed, that on the very day on which I went into Mr. Edye's pew, my colleague, Sir George Berkeley, and Sir John Maxwell, also went into the pew of the master attendant; whether they did so, I cannot say, but I should not impute any blame to them for doing so. I state this in order to excuse Mr. Edye. After a time, to my great surprise, hearing that it was condemned as an attempt to exercise undue influence in the dockyard, I did not go again; having been always in the habit of going there, it never struck me that it would be construed in that view, of trying to exercise undue influence in the yard.

4806. You have been for many years Member for Devonport, have you not?—Yes, since 1840.

4807. It has been stated to this Committee, that there is at Devonport a patronage committee of each party, who watch the opportunities for entries and for promotions in the dockyards; from your long acquaintance with Devonport, the Committee wish to know whether that is the fact or not?—I will explain to the Committee. In Devonport there is a political organisation, such as I suppose exists in all other boroughs; each ward has a committee, and every committee deputes one member to a central committee, and two committees together are able at any time to call a political meeting of their friends together. Every Member who represents a dockyard, must know that he is overwhelmed with letters; and without referring them occasionally to some friend or other, it is impossible for him to ascertain whether the parties are what they represent themselves to be, whether qualified or not, and whether they are his own friends or not. I have been led into error, and most heartily abused, for recommending for an appointment a person always politically opposed to me; and when letters come from parties of whom I have known nothing, I refer them to one friend or other in the borough.

4808. It has been also represented to the Committee, that during many years all the promotions in the dockyard, as well as the entries, had been invariably from one party; and as that was stated by the agent for the opposite party, I wish to know whether it is admitted by the persons in your interest?—Persons in my interest give an entirely opposite statement to that; they state that whether my friends are in power or in opposition, we do not get a fair share of patronage. I think that those statements, either from the one side or the other, from political partisans, are not worth consideration at all. I can put before the Committee a statement made to me respecting promotions in the yard, and giving a totally opposite view of the case. I fairly say, that when those representations come to me, I attach very little credit to them.

4809. You do not find that when your own friends are in power you receive a more fervent support from the dockyard voters than at any other time?—I have only had one election during the time that I have been in opposition. It happened so, that every other election was when my friends were in power. What I recollect was this: that during the time I was opposed to Mr. Dawson, as to the dockyard votes, we about halved them; there was very little difference; a little above 200 on each side. At the last election, 1852, I had a return made out of the different votes of the dockyard men and official men, by which it appears that myself and Sir John Romilly obtained 221, and my opponents obtained 334. I think that is rather above the average.

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4810. Mr. *Beckett.*] You represented Devonport for many years, from 1841 to 1846?—I did.

4811. When Sir Robert Peel's Government was in power?—Yes.

4812. Did you feel any reason to be dissatisfied with the distribution of patronage when your opponents were in power?—Not the slightest.

4813. *Chairman.*] It has been brought to the attention of the Committee that in the year 1850, upon some occasion you gave a dinner at Devonport, and you had the master shipwright of the dockyard, and other officers of the dockyard, attending you at that dinner; can you remember the circumstances, so as to state them to the Committee?—The circumstances were these: since the year 1847, I do not believe that I had been near Devonport till the year 1850. At Devonport the Members on my side of the question do not give dinners to their friends, but receive dinners from them. In 1850 I received a pressing invitation to a dinner at Devonport, from my friends; it was very inconvenient to me. I happened to be in Germany for my health, and I returned from Germany to Devonport to attend at this dinner. I had nothing to do with giving any invitation for it; I did not know who was to be there, and I had nothing to do at all with the control of it.

4814. As you have been for some time acquainted with the voters in the dockyard, I wish to ask, have they ever expressed a wish that they should be disfranchised?—No, I never heard a wish expressed to that effect; and I should like to say, with regard to that, that I entirely concur in the opinion expressed by Sir Francis Baring yesterday, that I do not think that the disfranchisement of the dockyards would cure the evil now complained of; but I do think that all the jobbing in the yards might be put down if the parties at head-quarters were in earnest. I am also bound to state, that if the practices are continued that prevailed at the late election, I do think it would be necessary, with regard to the men connected with the dockyard, either to disfranchise them, or to allow them to vote by ballot.

4815. When you speak of practices at the late election, will you state what are the practices which you refer to?—I refer more particularly to the influence that was used in the different departments, and particularly by the visit of the Secretary of the Admiralty to Devonport at that time; because, though in the House of Commons the Secretary of the Admiralty may be a very insignificant person, in the dockyard he is considered as representing the department. It is for this reason, I can hardly describe the effect that a visit from a person in his situation at that time has upon the voters.

4816. As you have been there at several elections, can you say whether, at other elections, either the Secretary of the Admiralty, or a Lord of the Admiralty, has come down apparently to influence the election?—I never knew of it before.

4817. When Mr. Dawson stood for Devonport, was he in office?—Yes, he was, and there was a great outcry made; Mr. Dawson exhibited the Admiralty flag at the window of the hotel, and he was obliged to take it down.

4818. Was he in office at that time?—Yes, he was Secretary to the Admiralty, and a candidate.

4819. Is it not the fact that, whenever there are vacancies in the dockyard for first entries, persons in the place consider that they have the first claim, and do not they look upon the dockyard as fair patronage for the locality?—I think they do.

4820. And they think it somewhat unfair, do they not, if persons are brought from a distance and put in?—I cannot say how that is; I get many remonstrances of that sort very often.

4821. Lord *Hotham.*] It has been stated that, on one occasion, the candidate for Devonport was introduced by one of the members of the Board of Ordnance; were you cognisant of that?—No; I observed yesterday it was stated by an electioneering agent, who was examined, that that was during the election of 1839–40. Admiral Codrington hoisted his flag at Portsmouth in October 1839. I then went down to Devonport, and remained there, with the exception of a few intervals, between that and the time when the writ was moved for at the end of January. I recollect Admiral Dundas coming down once during the time; but he certainly, so far as I recollect, never introduced me at all to the constituency of Devonport. And perhaps the Committee will permit me to observe another thing in connexion with that election, that was stated yesterday, because it reflects rather upon the character of a very lamented friend of mine, Admiral Warren, who was then superintendent of the yard; it was stated that he took a very active part in that election. Now, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that is

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entirely without foundation. There is another statement I see in the evidence of yesterday, which is, to my belief, equally untrue. It is stated that in 1839 a strong contest between Mr. Tufnell and Mr. Dawson took place, and the latter had a majority of pledged votes; but the Government influence was so strongly exerted that he was defeated. I heard at the time that our opponents were accused of putting down every vote as pledged when an elector did not give a positive refusal of his vote. I can state this, so far as my own calculations went, that the numbers that voted for me on the poll, exactly tallied with the promises I received. I never saw a more exact calculation of the numbers put down as pledged to vote for us.

4822. Lord *Hotham.*] In all these places which are familiarly called Government boroughs, the influence of any Government in office is always exerted in support of their own candidate, is it not?—No doubt.

4823. Sir *B. Hall.*] What was the date of the last election for Devonport?—I think it was the 6th of July.

4824. What time did you go down to the borough of Devonport previously to the election?—I went down on the 11th of June.

4825. Were you at Devonport at the time the late Secretary of the Admiralty visited Devonport?—I was.

4826. He was there at the time you were there preparing for your election, was he not?—He was.

4827. Do you believe that the visit of the Secretary of the Admiralty had any influence, or any great influence, over the voters at the late election?—I have no doubt it had very considerable influence. The Secretary of the Admiralty at a naval port is an exceedingly great man.

4828. Do you think that his presence there would have influenced the decision of the voters in the yard?—I do not know; his presence with the candidates must have, I should think, exercised a considerable influence.

4829. You think that his going round the yard with the Conservative candidates, and his standing at the ticket office, where all the men passed in review before him and the Conservative candidates, would have had an influence at the election?—I have very little doubt of it; from what I heard, there was a very indignant feeling in the yard about it amongst the men in the yard.

4830. You were returned at the head of the poll, were you not?—Yes.

4831. How many votes had Sir George Berkeley over your colleague, Sir John Romilly?—I think it was 10.

4832. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] It was stated that there was a very general impression that places in the dockyard have been matter of sale; have any such reports reached you?—Yes; during the canvass, a person of the opposite party made a charge of that description against one of my committee: this is all I know; my committee were extremely indignant at such a charge being made, and they insisted upon legal steps being immediately taken to prosecute the person making the charge. Steps were accordingly taken, and he was served, through a solicitor, with a notice of an action for libel. The person making the charge retracted it, and apologised for what had been done, and the whole matter dropped; that is all I know about it.

John Beer, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

John Beer, Esq.

4833. Lord *Hotham.*] WAS Admiral Warren one of the persons you referred to yesterday?—I think what I remember saying was, that Admiral Warren was superintendent of the dockyard at the time, and that Mr. Tufnell and Admiral Dundas had been at his house together. I do not think that I stated that Admiral Warren had taken an active part; if I did say so, the notes will show; my impression is, that I did not say so. I said, that Mr. Tufnell and Admiral Dundas had been at his house, he being then superintendent of the dockyard.

4834. I think I understood you to say, that Commissioner Ross was the person that interfered in two successive elections, and that for candidates holding different views?—Yes, undoubtedly. After inquiry before the House of Commons as to the exhibition of the Admiralty flag, it was intimated that superior officers ought not to interfere at elections. I do not recollect any instance where a superior officer has interfered in any way as Commissioner Ross did.

4835. You referred to Commissioner Ross as having interfered on two successive occasions; you did not mean to impute to Admiral Warren any interference of that kind?—I certainly did not; I do not think that I said so. The Committee

mittee will allow me to say, in reference to something that was said by me yesterday, there were several of the names of parties that I felt obliged to mention; unfortunately that appears in the papers to-day very differently from what I stated them; and the Committee will allow me to set myself right as to one particularly. I said that a captain of the navy, who had used very great exertions on the part of the Whig candidates, had received promotions for his sons; the name is stated to be Captain Walker; I said Captain Foote.

4836. You referred to Captain Foote, and not to Captain Walker?—Yes. The Committee will perhaps let me say, as to this accusation that was made, of Mr. Tufnell having been at the dockyard church, and in the pew of the master shipwright, I have heard now that it is said that Sir George Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell were also there; I believe they were, and I dare say Mr. Tufnell is right in stating that they were in the pew of the master attendant; but I was assured by Sir George Berkeley that the master attendant was not there, and that nobody sat with him but his son, I believe, the aide-de-camp to Sir John Rolt, the then Commander-in-Chief; he was in plain clothes. I observe also, that it is said in the papers to-day, that I was not cognisant of any patronage in Devonport; I said I was connected with no patronage committee, but I have heard and believe that there is a patronage committee, a committee of influential gentlemen, to whom Mr. Tufnell alluded, and through whom applications for appointments and promotions proceed.

4837. *Chairman.*] Do you mean anything else than that which is very common in many Parliamentary boroughs; that there is a committee in connection with the Member, who will communicate with him, and look after his interest to a certain extent?—Nothing on earth more than that. Of course, I know practically that the greatest possible inconvenience would arise to Honourable Members representing boroughs that have Government patronage, unless they have parties in the borough upon whom they can rely.

4838. Is not that the case even in boroughs that have no political patronage?—Yes; I believe so.

4839. Were you acquainted with Mr. Roberts, the late master shipwright?—I was; I knew him very well.

4840. Had he been a political partisan?—Mr. Roberts came to Devonport, I think, either just before or at the time of the passing of the Reform Bill. I do not know that he ever had a vote; I believe, if he did interfere in politics, it was in a very quiet way; he was a man that stuck to his profession, and had nothing to do with politics that I know of; and Mr. Roberts was of his day, I think I may say, the most eminent master shipwright that the service could boast of; and he, though advanced in years, was a very hale and active man, and prided himself upon his incessant attention to his duties. In fact, I think I may mention that he was scarcely ever absent through illness, or through being away on leave, from seven o'clock in the morning till five, from day to day. He was constantly in the dockyard, and I think that the removal of Mr. Roberts was an instance of very great hardship. As I suggested to the Committee, my impression was that it was wished the yard should be converted to political purposes as much as possible, and that the officers should be so converted; they commenced with Mr. Roberts.

4841. Do you know at what time he was superannuated?—He was superannuated, I think, in 1837; the contest between Sir Edward Codrington and Mr. Dawson having just preceded it by a year, probably.

4842. What age was he when he was retired?—I do not know; I should think probably very nearly, if not quite 70; but I may state this, that it was suggested at the time, I do not know whether truly or not, that Mr. Roberts had been removed because he had shown some attention to Mr. Dawson. The fact was, that Mr. Dawson came to the borough upon the invitation of a great number of the inhabitants, and some time after the election he dined privately with Mr. Roberts, as his friend. I cannot fail to draw the attention of the Committee to this peculiar circumstance. I have stated that Mr. Roberts was a man who was not only perfectly competent, but I believe his judgment was as unimpaired as any man's at that time.

4843. This was the retirement of a man of the age of 70?—Yes, and I think that an instance of very great hardship; I know that it bore very hardly upon him, and we considered that he had been most unjustly dealt with.

4844. But the time at which the authorities have the power to superannuate is 60, is it not so?—It is so.

4845. Then Mr. Roberts had been there 10 years longer than the ordinary period?—

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period?—Probably so; probably there was not a master shipwright in any dockyard at that time who was not above that age. I venture to state these facts, that the Committee may inquire into them, if my judgment is not correct; but I say that Mr. Roberts was superseded by a gentleman in that office who, I believe, for periods of three months upon a stretch has been unable to leave his house, and he was not at the dockyard side probably for the time I state. I say that a man perfectly efficient and able to do his duty was superseded by a gentleman who, from bodily infirmity, was almost perfectly incompetent to do his duty; but I must say this, that the effect which we found in the borough upon the change was very soon apparent.

4846. Are the Committee to understand you to say that upon the retirement of Mr. Roberts, as shipwright, Mr. Hawkes was appointed, who, from physical incapacity, was unfit for the situation?—I do not say that; the master shipwright may be capable of carrying on his duties in his own house, but he was for long periods of time unable to leave his house, and eventually he was superseded, because he was unable to carry on the duty. He was succeeded by Mr. Edye.

4847. Had Mr. Hawkes been in dockyards for a long time?—All his life. He was new to our dockyard.

4848. Supposing that he had been able to perform the duties, had he any fair claim to the appointment?—I do not for a moment say, Mr. Roberts having been got rid of, that Mr. Hawkes was not properly appointed. I know that it was complained of by Mr. Roberts at the time; and long after Mr. Roberts had been compelled to retire (I say "compelled" advisedly) he was elected to be a member of the commission that sat at Woolwich upon questions of naval architecture.

[The Witness withdrew.

Sir *Baldwin Walker*, called in; and further Examined.

Sir *B. Walker*.

4849. *Chairman.*] HAVE you not a return, which you wish to hand in to the Committee, as to the correspondence respecting the promotions, vacancies, &c. in the dockyards?—Yes.

[*The same was handed in, and is as follows:*]

PROMOTIONS, VACANCIES, &c. in the DOCKYARDS.

YEAR.	Correspondence direct from Dockyards to Surveyor.		Letters referred to the Surveyor from the Admiralty.
	Permanent Periodical Returns of Establishment and Vacancies.	Other Correspondence on Promotion and Vacancies.	
1840 - - -	84	160	76
1841 - - -	84	189	56
1842 - - -	84	30	16
1843 - - -	84	17	5
1844 - - -	84	7	14
1845 - - -	84	2	8
1846 - - -	84	20	9
1847 - - -	84	18	17
1848 - - -	84	11	16
1849 - - -	84	55	58
1850 - - -	84	93	79
1851 - - -	84	97	91

Surveyor's Office, 3 May 1853. *G. P. Parkin*, Chief Clerk.

4850. This return comes down to the year 1851, does it not?—Yes.

4851. You have not given it in for 1852?—No, because my letter had no reference to 1852.

4852. Mr. *Beckett.*] Will you state whether, the former circular being reverted to, the submissions from the superintendents are now sent to you?—Yes, they come direct to me.

4853. And they are forwarded by you to the Admiralty?—Yes, with my submissions to the Admiralty.

4854. *Chairman.*] When was that change made?—It was made about two months ago; I do not recollect the exact date; it was done by an Order in Council with reference to the instructions.

[The Witness withdrew.

Robert Bell, called in; and Examined.

Robert Bell

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4855. *Chairman.*] WILL you look at this Return (*handing the same to the Witness*). It has been stated to the Committee that there are some slight inaccuracies in this Return, and the Committee wish to have the Return corrected, if it is found to be inaccurate?—Yes, in two cases there are inaccuracies, from the papers being before the Committee; I gave them upon recollection. In the other cases, Sir Baldwin Walker can, I believe, explain them.

4856. Will you take care that the document, when sent back corrected, is signed by the head of the department?—Yes.

[The Witness withdrew.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., a Member of the House; further Examined.

A. Stafford, Esq. M.P.

4857. *Chairman.*] IS there anything that you would wish to add to your former evidence before this Committee?—Yes. At page 5 of the first examination of Sir Baldwin Walker, he says, at Question 7, with reference to his letter, dated the 29th of November 1852: "That letter, with those copies made out in my office at the time, I placed in the hands of Mr. Stafford, who on opening it expressed his surprise at my having enclosed copies of the letters, as Captain Milne had led him to believe that I had promised to withhold them. I assured him that I had not made such a promise. He further stated, that it was of no use sending them in to be placed in the record office to be read by all the clerks; and he begged me to again see Captain Milne on the subject, which I did; and I was induced to give in the point at that officer's urgent request, who stated, that there was no use in raking up an affair that had passed over; and from my feeling that Mr. Stafford had committed himself, in having given the answer he did in the House of Commons"; I may say that my recollection is entirely at variance with the Surveyor's on that subject. To the best of my remembrance that interview never took place.

4858. Do you mean that you had no interview and conversation?—Yes; I had the interview which the Surveyor stated yesterday, previously to his going to Somerset House.

4859. Had you an interview with him on the 29th of November?—Yes.

4860. You having written to him, on Sunday the 28th, a private letter, requesting that interview?—Yes; and from me he went to the Duke of Northumberland and Admiral Hyde Parker. Afterwards he came back for a very short interview. I had those two interviews with him on the subject.

4861. On the 29th?—Yes; but he stated that he came back from Somerset House. I do not recollect having any interview with the Surveyor after he came from Somerset House; he came to my room first, and then went to the First Lord and Admiral Parker, and subsequently he returned to my room. According to my remembrance, those are the only two interviews that I had with him that day. I did not say that it was of no use sending the letters to be placed in the record office, or to be read by all the clerks. He states that his feeling was, "that Mr. Stafford had committed himself in having given the answer he did in the House of Commons." I did not feel that I had committed myself in the least.

4862. I thought you had admitted that it was undesirable, as the matter was then at an end, to have those letters sent in?—My feeling was, that it was most desirable, as I said in the letter which the Surveyor put in, that this great establishment should be brought into harmony with itself; that I, as Secretary, should not state in the House of Commons that there was no correspondence when he said there was, and either the letters should be given in or not. What seemed to be the great difficulty was, that he had written one letter as a private letter; the Surveyor's impression was that I was in a difficulty; I did not see it then, and I do not see it now. I had before privately and publicly written to ask the Surveyor for the letters; he might have sent them in on the 22d, the 23d, the 24th, or the 25th, or he might have sent them on the 26th, or the 27th, or the 28th, or the 29th; it was at his own discretion to send them in or not.

4863. I understand you now to state that you did not see any difficulty after finding that there had been a correspondence, when you had, under an erroneous impression, stated to the House of Commons that there was none?—It was not a

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difficulty for myself. It might have been a difficulty for the Surveyor, if he insisted upon producing the letter which the Duke had stated to be private. The whole thing rested with the Duke of Northumberland and Admiral Hyde Parker. I was at liberty to go down to the House and say, subsequently, that the correspondence was produced, and I could therefore lay it before the House. The Surveyor was wrong in thinking that I was in any difficulty.

4864. Would there not have been a difficulty in laying it on the table of the House?—No. Those letters would have reached the Board after my answer of the 22d to Admiral Berkeley in the House of Commons.

4865. After the letters had been sent in, you would have gone down to the House afterwards, and stated that upon further inquiry you found that there had been a correspondence?—Yes; which had been handed into the office subsequently to the statement I made.

4866. Then, not having found copies in the record office; but since you have found copies, and therefore you produced them?—Yes.

(Sir *B. Walker.*) There is a gentleman in this room that will, I think, partly bear out the statement which I made, who wrote the copies of the two letters; and I most solemnly declare before the Committee that I placed those copies that I now hold in my hand into Mr. Stafford's hand on the afternoon of the 29th of November, and that after that interview I returned to Somerset House. There is Mr. Eden, who wrote copy of the first letter, and he can inform the Committee that half an hour after I left with the copies of the letters, I returned to Somerset House, and he re-wrote that letter, omitting that paragraph enclosing the copies.

4867. That was after you had seen Captain Milne, who wished you not to send the copies?—Yes.

4868. Sir *B. Hall.*] At Question 642 and 643, are these words: "Did Mr. Stafford request you (Captain Milne), to mediate in the matter? Yes.—With a view of inducing you to withhold the correspondence? Yes." And I asked Captain Milne this question: "Then you believe that, had it not been for your friendly interference in the matter, Sir Baldwin Walker would positively have handed in those letters?" To which Captain Milne replied, "Certainly." Is that the fact or not?—It is the fact.

[The Witness withdrew.

Walter Eden, Esq, called in; and further Examined.

Walter Eden, Esq.

4869. *Chairman.*] DO you recollect receiving on the 29th of November any instructions to copy a certain letter?—Certainly I do.

4870. Can you state what time of the day it was?—I cannot state exactly what period of the day it was, it is so long back; but I should think it was about the middle or latter end of the day, possibly one or two o'clock.

4871. You copied two letters, did you?—Yes, two separate letters.

4872. One, a letter of Sir Baldwin Walker's, tendering his resignation, or was that one of them?—Yes, those letters were an enclosure to the covering letter.

4873. Did you copy the enclosures also?—They were copied on that day, if I recollect rightly.

4874. Did you write the letter which stated that the enclosures were sent?—Yes, I did.

4875. Did you, later in the day, write another letter, in which no allusion was made to the enclosures?—Yes, I did.

4876. That was some hours after the first letter, was it?—Some time. I cannot say exactly what period of time.

4877. They were both written on the same day, the 29th?—Certainly.

[The Witness withdrew.

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COPY of the ADMIRALTY ORDER of the 27th day of February 1847, on the Subject of DOCKYARD PROMOTIONS.

CIRCULAR to the ADMIRALS and CAPTAINS superintending HER MAJESTY'S DOCKYARDS.

Sir, Admiralty, February 27, 1847.

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that they have felt themselves compelled to take the condition of the dockyards under their most serious consideration. Appendix, No. 1.

The subject is one of great magnitude. The vote for wages and salaries, in Her Majesty's establishments at home and abroad, under Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9, has averaged 810,664 *l.* during the last four years. It is a constantly increasing vote. The vote for 1843–4 was 779,386 *l.* The vote for the current year is 951,886 *l.* The vote for stores (including steam machinery) for 1846–7 amounted to 1,694,152 *l.*; and that for buildings and new works to 526,810 *l.* The machinery already in existence in the dock and victualling yards is increasing annually in value, and large additions must be made to it as the steam factories at Portsmouth, Keyham, and Malta advance towards completion. No reduction in this branch of the establishment is probable or possible, for the steam factories must keep pace with the growth of the steam navy, which again is determined by considerations of national policy.

As yet, provision has been made only for the average annual repair of machinery of 20,000 horse power, out of a total of 40,000 horse power; and every succeeding Board of Admiralty has recognised the inconvenience, bad economy, and peril, in the event of war, of allowing these repairs to be limited to the single factory at Woolwich. But the greater the extension, present and prospective, of the dockyards, and of the steam factories in connexion with them, the greater is the necessity of securing in them the most careful and efficient management. Upon such an expenditure, the smallest savings are important; and in spite of the improvements already engrafted upon the old system, by the appointment of engineers to take charge of the machinery in the yards, and to relieve the master shipwright from duties which did not come within the sphere of his ordinary avocations—in spite of the large and useful changes connected with the department of the director of works, which have also relieved the yards from the maintenance of the buildings; and the more recent improvements, to which my Lords expect that the recommendations of the Committee of Metals will give rise, by placing all matters connected with copper and iron under a special superintendence, and ensuring the early introduction into the Government yards of the best modes of working adopted in private establishments; still much is left to be done before a satisfactory result can be arrived at.

In saying this my Lords do not wish to imply that they take an unfavourable view of these great national establishments. They have much satisfaction in acknowledging the good moral tone that prevails amongst the artificers generally, and the excellent quality of the work performed by them. On the other hand, they think that there is abundant evidence to show that the quantity of work done is below the standard of well-conducted private establishments, and that there is great room for improvement in the application both of stores and labour. Their Lordships will not entertain any general charges of indifference to expense on the part of the officers, or of inertness on that of the men; and they are equally unwilling to dwell upon representations made to them of the effect of political feeling, in some of the yards, upon the course of promotion, though they can conceive nothing more dangerous to their discipline, if true, or more detrimental to the public interest. They wish to look forward, not to look back; their object being to introduce a system that may inspire every man with the belief that his conduct will be known and appreciated by his superiors, and that, however humble his position originally, his future fate depends upon his own exertions.

Their Lordships see too much reason to apprehend that such is not the present state of feeling in the dockyards; but that the rise from shipwright to leading man, and from leading man to inspector, is regarded rather as a matter of accident or favour than as a reward due to merit, and to be dispensed upon plain and equitable principles. They feel that wherever such an impression prevails subordination must be weakened; and they have, consequently, resolved to lay down one fixed and intelligible rule of promotion for all classes, as the best foundation of that more vigilant and intelligent superintendence which they regard as indispensable.

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For the discipline of the yard, like the discipline of the ship, depends upon the petty officers; and no exertions of the admirals, or captains, superintendent, or of the master shipwrights can compensate for the want of a hearty co-operation on the part of the inspectors and leading men, to whom the care of the separate gangs is confined, and with whom it rests to enforce a proper economy in the use of the stores and materials issued for the work going on under their superintendence.

It is necessary, however, as the first step towards this extended responsibility, to remove all just causes of complaint amongst that class of officers from whose exertions benefit is anticipated.

My Lords have, therefore, duly considered the petitions presented by the inspectors of the different dockyards. They find by these that, with a salary of 100 *l.* a year, they are expected to maintain the station and authority of officers; that, in 1833, when the pay of the inspector was fixed, the workmen were only employed five days a week, whereas they are now employed six days, for which the working man receives one-sixth more wages, but no additional allowance has been made to the inspector. The men, too, have occasionally the privilege of working extra hours, when the inspector is bound to be in attendance, without any remuneration whatsoever, although the wages earned by the men when upon task-work are fully equal to his pay, and the pay of the leading men exceeds it. The old quarterman, whom the inspectors replaced, received 180 *l.* a year, with a gang of 25 men and boys under them. The inspectors, with only 100 *l.* a year, have 40 men and boys to superintend, for all of whom they demand the stores and materials required for their daily labour. Their pensions, too, are regulated by the scale of 40ths, not of 12ths, like those of other salaried officers in the Customs, Excise, and Ordnance, by which they are considerable losers. Indeed, a leading man of long standing often refuses to be made an inspector because his superannuation would be lessened by his promotion; and from a similar cause the men who would be best qualified to undertake the duty (the head draughtsmen in the Mould loft) decline it because their pay being 7 *s.* a day, they would necessarily lose by the transfer.

The superintendents of the dockyards and the master shipwrights have, without one exception, recorded their opinion that justice and economy would be equally consulted by increasing the pay of the inspectors; and the late Secretary of the Admiralty, Mr. Corry, in a minute dated the 9th of July, expressed his unqualified concurrence in this view, and recommended that the salary of the inspectors should be raised to 125 *l.* a year, being half the amount given to the officers next to them in rank—the foremen of the yard. Taking the number of inspectors at 108, whose annual pay amounts to 10,800 *l.*, this might be accomplished at a cost of 2,700 *l.* But my Lords are unwilling to incur any additional charge unless as a part of an improved system; and with that improved system they believe that it would be wise to be more liberal, and to provide a class of inspectors at 150 *l.* a year as an intermediate step between the inspectors at 125 *l.* and the foremen at 250 *l.*, in order that promotion may not be too long delayed, and that prompt reward may stimulate to constant exertion.

They have, therefore, been pleased to sanction the following regulations, with the double view of introducing that fixed and intelligible principle of promotion amongst the men, and that more vigilant and intelligent superintendence which they think essential to the proper administration of the dockyards; and they do this under the belief that in so large and complicated a system, it is only by an improved tone of feeling amongst all classes, and by teaching individuals to see that their own advancement depends upon a scrupulous discharge of their duty to the public, that a substitute can be found for that personal and pecuniary interest which is the mainspring of exertion in private establishments.

Admission to Yard.

New Regulations for Admission and Promotion in Her Majesty's Dockyards.

Apprentices.—It is the intention of their Lordships to leave the admissions to the yard very nearly upon their present footing, taking in a certain number of apprentices annually, whose names are to be entered, by Board order, upon the superintendent's list, on the recommendation of the yard officers, allowing the apprentices out of their time, whose conduct has been satisfactory, to fill the first vacancies upon the establishment; and reserving the rest for candidates of their own selection, upon a proper report of the character and circumstances of those who present themselves.

Educational Test.—In the annual choice of apprentices, due regard will be shown to the recommendations of the superintendent and the yard officers, where they relate to the children of deserving artificers; but, in addition to the physical tests already required, no boy is to be admitted after the 31st of March 1847, who is not able to read and write well, or who has not some knowledge of arithmetic.

My Lords reserve to themselves the right of directing the children of persons out of the yard whom they may deem entitled to this privilege, to be entered upon the list from which the apprentices are to be selected; but in all cases they will require the same educational test, as a preparation for the advantages provided by the dockyard schools for the more intelligent of the boys admitted to them.

The list of apprentices is to be made out by the superintendent, the master shipwright, and his assistants, in the month of January in every year; and they are to state, in a written report to the Board, their reasons for every recommendation; the services of the father; the character given of him during the past year by his leading man and inspector; the

the cause of his death, if, as sometimes happens, the candidate is the son of a widow; and any other facts that may entitle the boy to their Lordships' favourable consideration. If 20 apprentices are to be entered, 40 names must be sent up (and so on in proportion for a larger or smaller number), and out of these their Lordships will select the proper individuals to be admitted.

Board Wages for Apprentices.—Board wages for apprentices will be granted hereafter solely upon the recommendations of the superintendent and of the officers of the yard, who will take care to use them as an encouragement to merit, with a due regard to the circumstances of each family, which must be stated to their Lordships by the superintendent when he applies for their sanction.

Schools.—The improvement of the dockyard schools has been long under the consideration of the Admiralty. The most intelligent officers from the yards admit the good effects which they are already producing, but it is evident that more might be done by additional encouragement and better organization. The circular issued by the late Board on the 27th June 1846, has given a stimulus to exertion, by ensuring to the best scholars in each school the means of completing their education free of expense, and of thus qualifying themselves for the higher branches of the public service. Eight boys will be selected annually for this purpose when the schools have come into full operation; and those whose conduct at Portsmouth has been satisfactory, will, at the expiration of their time, be re-admitted as leading men into the yards, and favourably noted for promotion.

But these are the exceptions. For the great majority of the boys who continue in the schools, the proper career is the Mould loft, in which the master shipwright will take care that the most promising boys are tried successively, and in which those who show the most talent for drawing, and most assiduity in cultivating it at home, should be fixed ultimately as draughtsmen, with the condition that out of each three vacant inspectorships, one shall be given in future to the head draughtsman, provided his testimonials be satisfactory, and that he has worked at least one year at his tools at the ship's side. This will ensure in the Mould loft a regular course of promotion, and give to the yard a succession of inspectors, well instructed both in the scientific and practical part of their duty.

Apprentices out of their Time.—No apprentice, who has served his time, is to be entered upon the establishment without a written report from the master shipwright, transmitted through the superintendent, as to his conduct and qualifications; and this report is to refer specially to the character given of the apprentice in the weekly returns by his leading man and inspector, to which the school report will hereafter be appended. His entry upon the yard books, when out of his time, cannot be claimed as a matter of right, but will not be withheld without just cause and proper investigation.

Promotions.

But whether men find their way into the dockyards as apprentices or by Board order, it is their Lordships' determination that, once there, they should learn to look to themselves alone for promotion. With this view, I am commanded by their Lordships to desire that, taking the existing staff of foremen, inspectors, and leading men of shipwrights, joiners, caulkers, &c. as the medium through which the change must be wrought (subject to certain modifications which I shall state afterwards), you will immediately organise a system of weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports, upon which all future recommendations are to be founded.

System of Weekly and Monthly Returns.

Weekly Returns.—Using the forms that will be transmitted to you for this purpose by the storekeeper-general, you will direct each leading man to prepare, in his own handwriting, a weekly return of the conduct of the men composing his gang, which he will hand over on the Monday morning to his inspector, stating in it, on the one hand, any causes of complaint that he may see reason to make against the men for waste of stores, neglect of work, insubordination, or insobriety, and, on the other, his opinion of their respective merits.

Inspector's Report to Foreman once a Fortnight.—The inspector will transmit these returns once a fortnight to the foreman of the yard under whom he is more immediately serving, accompanied by remarks, also in his own handwriting, and stating whether, in his judgment, the leading men have done their duty satisfactorily; and the foremen, whose business it is to make themselves personally acquainted with the character and conduct of all who work under them, will, in like manner, transmit the inspector's reports and returns on the 1st of every month to the master shipwright, stating how far their own opinion confirms the character given of the gangs by the leading men and inspectors.

Both the foremen and the inspectors will include in these returns the single-station men placed under their orders, who, with the artificers, form the class out of which the leading men are to be selected. Other single-station men are to be reported upon in like manner by the officer under whose immediate orders they are serving.

Care must be taken not to permit these returns to lapse into a matter of form. The superior shipwright officers must investigate them closely at the end of every month, and the inferior officers and leading men will be noted at the Admiralty according to the ability displayed in them.

Mode of recommending for Promotion as Leading Man.

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It is their Lordships' intention that the weekly return made originally by the leading man should pass on to the master shipwright, with the remarks of the inspectors and foremen attached to it; and whenever a vacancy for leading man occurs, the master shipwright, with his assistants, will lay before the superintendent the three names which they recommend for promotion, stating in writing the grounds of their recommendation, and producing the returns upon which it is founded. It is the duty of the superintendent to investigate closely these returns and recommendations; and if he see reason to suppose that they have not been prepared with perfect impartiality, to report the same to the Admiralty.

Examination.—He will also direct the candidates to be examined, in his presence, by the master shipwright and his assistants, in those matters which are essential to the proper performance of their duties; for my Lords are convinced that no man can exercise a moral power over others, who is not superior to them in acquirements; and they are, consequently, most desirous that officers, even of the lowest grade, should possess a professional knowledge above that of the workmen.

Qualifications of a Leading Man.—To be a leading man, an artificer should, in addition to a thorough practical knowledge of his trade, be able to write a legible hand; he should understand arithmetic, as far as vulgar and decimal fractions; and he should be well acquainted with the details of forming and combining the different parts of a ship, and the various methods used in trimming and fastening them. Upon all these points the superintendent will draw up a report, which he will transmit to the Admiralty with the original documents annexed to it, submitted to him by the master shipwright; and having reduced the list of candidates to two, by omitting the one whom he thinks least qualified, one of the names thus sent up will be appointed by Board order to fill the vacancy.

Promotion from Leading Man to Inspector.

Monthly Report of Foremen on Conduct of Inspectors and Leading Men.—My Lords regard it as the peculiar duty of the master shipwright, his assistants, and the foremen of the yard to watch over the conduct of the leading men and the inspectors, and they desire that, on the first of every month, the foremen will prepare a report upon the efficiency or inefficiency of the officers serving under them, which is to be kept in the master shipwright's office, stating any grounds of complaint that they may have against them, and any particular cause of satisfaction, such as the increased efficiency of labour, a greater economy in the use of stores, or any other circumstance which they may think conducive to the better conduct of the work for which they are responsible.

Reports of Foremen on Officers to be sent Quarterly to Admiralty, Originals, not Copies.—My Lords intend to see these reports themselves, which are to be sent up quarterly, with the remarks of the master shipwright attached to them: and the promotion of the foremen to the rank of master shipwright's assistants will depend very much upon the impression thus given of their intelligence and capacity.

Mode of recommending for an Inspectorship.—When a vacancy for an inspector occurs, the master shipwright will select from the leading men and from the Mould loft the names of the individuals whom he thinks most competent to fill it, and submit them to the superintendent, with the reports of the foremen, upon which his recommendation is founded. The superintendent, in addition to these, will call for the reports made by the inspectors to the foremen, and pay particular attention to the returns prepared by the leading men, as well as to the qualifications of the draughtsmen who are put in nomination, as these ought to furnish proof of their zeal and intelligence as subordinates; and, having satisfied his own mind as to the fitness of the individuals submitted to him for the office of inspector, and as to the fairness with which they have been selected, he will, as in the case of the leading men, direct them to be examined, in his presence, by the master shipwright and his assistants.

Qualification of an Inspector.—To be an inspector, a man should write well; he should understand arithmetic, as far as vulgar and decimal fractions, and be able to measure plane surfaces and cubes. He should likewise understand laying off ships on the Mould-loft floor, and the details of forming and combining the different parts of ships, the various modes of fastening them, and the correct methods of taking account of work.

Report of Superintendent.—The superintendent will advert to all these points in his report, stating his own opinion of the capacity of the candidates; and having reduced the number to two, by striking off the name of that candidate whom he thinks least qualified, one of the two names thus sent up will be selected to fill the vacancy.

Pay and Duties of Inspectors.—My Lords having taken into consideration the case of the inspectors, are of opinion that they have just ground of complaint in the smallness of their salary, and in the slowness and uncertainty of their promotion. They wish to see the inspectors take their proper place as a class of intelligent and independent officers, upon whose exertions the discipline of the yard mainly depends, and who have it in their power to repay the public a hundredfold for any encouragement that may be given to them, by increased vigilance in the discharge of their duties.

Increas

Increase of Salary for Year beginning 1st April 1847.—My Lords, therefore, have determined to make provision, in the next Estimates, for increasing the salary of inspectors from 100 *l.* to 125 *l.*, for the year beginning 1st of April 1847; and they are also prepared to recommend that, on the 1st of April 1848, a first class of inspectors shall be formed, with a salary of 150 *l.*, which is to be composed of one-fourth of the inspectors in each yard, whose names they will themselves select, in the first week of April 1848, after a careful examination of the quarterly reports made during the preceding 12 months by the foremen and master shipwrights. My Lords reserve the right of satisfying themselves by personal inquiries, or in any other way that they may think proper, as to the intelligence and services of the individuals to be thus selected. They will be guided principally by the proofs which their own reports to their superior officers may afford of their zeal, firmness and capacity; but they will in all cases seek the advice and concurrence of the superintendent, before their choice is finally notified.

New Shoaling of the Yards.

Four Leading Men under each Inspector.—Twelve Shipwrights under each Leading Man.—Sub-leading Men.—It is the intention of my Lords to place four leading men under each inspector, and to assign to each leading man a gang of 12 artificers, with the proper proportion of apprentices. The leading man will himself select a sub-leading man, who will take charge of a portion of the gang when employed upon separate service, and who will be answerable to him for the expenditure of the stores and materials. This sub-leading man will receive no additional pay, and will continue to work as an ordinary artificer, but his conduct is to be specially noted in the weekly returns, and, if satisfactory, it will be taken into account when his own time comes for promotion.

The yards are to be "shoaled" afresh (no reserve gangs being on any account permitted) for the purpose of carrying out this plan; and as the number of inspectors will be reduced by it, some of those least qualified by age, health, or other circumstances for the discharge of their new duties are to be recommended for superannuation.

Casual Sickness, Absence on account of.—As further evidence of their Lordships' desire to raise the condition of those officers from whom they look for more active co-operation, they are pleased to order the discontinuance of the abatement now made from their salaries when absent from sickness, under medical certificate.

Re-establishment of "Measurer's" Office.—It is the intention of their Lordships, as a check to extravagance in the use of materials, and in order to bring the work actually done to a proper standard, to re-establish the "Measurer's" Office, introduced in 1809 by Order in Council, upon the recommendation of the Board of Naval Revision, assigning to it, what it had not before, a control over the expenditure of materials, as well as over the application of labour, and placing the office itself upon a more economical footing. They are convinced of the necessity of having in the dockyards, where the works are so extensive and the business so complicated, a system of keeping accurate accounts, and of checking the issues of stores and materials; and they conceive that the means of effecting this may be found by employing in each of the larger yards four measurers, who with four shipwright writers will form, under the master shipwright, an office for the measurement of work done, the formation of estimates for repairs, and the statement of actual expenditure. Where any of the old "sub-measurers" remain in the yards, they may be selected for this duty, with the pay of inspectors of the second class, and the permission to retain their pensions. Where there are no sub-measurers, intelligent and practical men will be appointed as "measurers," with the pay of inspectors of the first class (150 *l.*), and furnished with instructions, which will be given in a separate paper.

Foremen of Yard.

The foremen of the yard are to be selected from the whole body of inspectors, assistant timber converters, and measurers, giving a preference, under ordinary circumstances, to inspectors of the first class, but reserving the right to promote from the second class, upon a special report, in cases of extraordinary services or merit.

Vacancies, how filled.—When a vacancy for a foreman occurs, the master shipwright is to submit three names to the superintendent, who will follow, in all respects, the rules laid down for the promotion of inspectors and leading men, taking care, however, that the examination is conducted with due reference to the higher qualification required in this class of officers.

Qualifications of Foreman.—To be a foreman, a man should have a competent knowledge of simple equations in Algebra, and be able to work problems deduced from the three first books of Euclid. He should also have a thorough knowledge of the mode of laying off ships upon the Mould-loft floor, and understand all the different methods of forming and combining them. These qualifications are to be stated in the report made by the superintendent to the Admiralty, accompanied by his own remarks as to the manner in which the candidates have discharged their duties as inspectors, and by the reports which they have themselves drawn up as to the conduct of the leading men and artificers working under them during the preceding 12 months; and my Lords will then select one of the two to fill the vacancy.

Appendix, No. 1.

Good Service Grant.

Complaints of Foremen,—Slowness of Promotion.—My Lords are aware that, from the slowness of promotion amongst the foremen, owing to the very limited number of master shipwright's assistants, there is no class of officers amongst whom there are to be found harder cases of long service and unrequited merit. They cannot remove this disadvantage as regards promotion, for that, necessarily, depends upon vacancies in the grades immediately above them; but they will recommend to Parliament that, in consideration of the important duties performed by the foremen, a gratuity of 50 *l.* shall be given annually to one foreman in each of the yards, who will be selected by their Lordships themselves, in April of each year, commencing in 1848, with due reference to length of service and general character, as well as to the intelligence and integrity with which, upon an examination of the quarterly reports, he may appear to have discharged the new duties with which the foremen are about to be entrusted. They regard this grant in the light of a good service reward, to be given up upon promotion. Its renewal to the same individual will depend upon his continued vigilance and exertion.

Master Shipwright's Assistant.

Examination at Naval College and Yard.—When a vacancy for a master shipwright's assistant occurs, the master shipwright will select the three most competent men amongst the foremen as candidates; but no candidate will be considered qualified who is not prepared to pass an examination at the Naval College, in quadratic equations, the first six books of Euclid, and the general principles of mechanics and hydrostatics. He will also be subjected to an examination in the yard, which is to be conducted in the presence of the superintendent, by the master shipwright, personally, as to all other matters required of his subordinate officers; and he will be expected to be able to give designs for the construction of ships, and to explain the principles by which it is regulated.

The superintendent will then investigate carefully the manner in which each candidate has performed his duty as an officer of the yard, and he will transmit to the Admiralty the original reports sent in by him to the master shipwright, in order that their Lordships may judge of his fitness for higher duties. The decision of the Board will rest upon a full consideration of all these various circumstances; but one of the three names sent up will be selected to fill the vacancy, unless an officer of still higher qualifications shall be recommended from some other yard, who will, however, have to pass an equally stringent examination.

Other Promotions.

Caulkers, Joiners—Qualifications as Inspector and Leading Man, &c.—The forms to be observed in recommending for promotion as inspectors and leading men of caulkers and joiners, are to be precisely similar, every recommendation being founded upon weekly and monthly reports, which are to be transmitted to the master shipwright. But as there is not the same scope or necessity for instruction amongst these classes of artificers, the examination required for a leading man of shipwrights will be sufficient for an inspector of caulkers or joiners; and a man will be qualified to become a leading man who can read and write well, and keep accounts correctly, provided the weekly reports bear testimony to his industry, sobriety, and good conduct in other respects. The same will be required of the foremen and leading men of painters, and of the master smith, who, with a salary of 250 *l.* a year, ought to be a man of some education. His foreman should also be able to read and write, and to keep accounts correctly; and my Lords intend to require this in all future appointments, both in the smitheries and as leading men of labourers.

Timber Converter.

There is one other officer in the dockyard, with whose position my Lords are not satisfied, his duties being badly defined, and his responsibility divided. The head timber converter is, or ought to be, a man of much experience and great integrity; and a man thus qualified should have the entire superintendence of all matters connected with the receipt, preservation, and conversion of timber, and the timber accounts, reporting, through the superintendent, to the Board direct, upon the quality of the timber, when first brought into the yard, and upon the stacking and other arrangements for preserving it, as well as upon any cases of improper conversion that he may discover.

Timber Inspector, 400 l.—Two Assistant Converters at 150 l. and 125 l.—Two Attendants at 5 s. per day.—My Lords are pleased, therefore, to direct that the head timber converter in each yard, if properly qualified, shall exercise henceforward this general superintendence with the rank of "timber inspector," and with a salary of 400 *l.* a year, in lieu of 350 *l.* He is to have, as at present, two sub-converters under him, to be called "assistant converters," who, with their two assistants, will be employed exclusively in conversions at the saw pits, and have the salary of first and second class inspector. But the general superintendence and conversion of the timber are to rest with the timber inspector, and no timber is to be received by the store receiver without his certificate. In case of any failure in the contracts, or attempt to introduce into the yard timber of an inferior quality, or not due, or not in accordance with the contract, the inspector is to report the same to the superintendent; and copies of the representations so made are to be sent to the Admiralty direct,

in

in order that my Lords may have the means of judging of the causes and character of his objections. When vacancies occur, the timber inspector will be selected from the foremen of the yard, and will be allowed one clerk to keep the timber accounts, being a charge and duty transferred from the storekeeper.

Removals upon Promotion.

"Quarterly" Promotions of Foremen and Inspectors.—Having made provision for the more liberal remuneration of the foremen and inspectors, and having opened to them a field of honourable exertion, in which merit is as certain to lead to preferment as any written regulations can make it, my Lords conceive themselves entitled to hold the services of these officers as absolutely at the disposal of the Crown, whenever and wherever they may be required. They will lay down no general rule respecting age, or removals at the time of promotion, but it is their intention only to fill up the vacancies upon the list of foremen and inspectors, once in every quarter, when the quarterly returns from all the yards will be before them, and they reserve the right of transferring all officers, upon promotion, to any yard where it is thought that they may prove most useful. My Lords except from this regulation the foreign yards, as good grounds may be assigned from family circumstances, or health, for declining to serve in them; but the officers, who volunteer for this duty, whether as foremen, inspectors, or leading men, will have their time, and rank (in addition to their increased pay), as if employed in Her Majesty's yards at home, and will be most favourably noted for promotion when their conduct abroad has proved satisfactory. My Lords reserve to themselves the right of adding their names, upon their return to this country, to the list of candidates sent up by any yard, in order to insure their re-entry, upon their passing the proper examination. Inspectors will be required to serve for 12 months upon probation, before their appointments are confirmed.

My Lords have now only to call upon the admirals, and captains, superintendent, the master shipwrights, and the other principal officers of the dockyards, to assist them in working out this plan honestly. They have given sufficient proof, by the surrender of their own patronage, of the sincerity of their desire to make these great national establishments what they ought to be. They have removed everything that can warrant a suspicion that preferment will be the result, not of services, but of political favouritism. They wish every step in the advancement of a man to be known and marked by his fellows; and they have laid down the rules that seem to them best adapted to insure, in each stage, fair play to merit and industry. But the good or bad working of every system must depend, in a great measure, upon those who are entrusted with its administration; and my Lords can only express their determination to mark with their severest displeasure every attempt to thwart their intentions, and to reward those who shall cheerfully second them, by every proof of their favour and approbation.

H. G. Ward.

Department of the Surveyor of the Navy.

(No. 835.)

Admiralty, 5 September 1849.

In order that I may be enabled to control and properly check the new establishments, which have been recently promulgated to the dockyards by their Lordships, and to see that they are carried out with uniformity and correctness, I would submit that the several superintendents be directed to transmit all reports and correspondence on the subject of vacancies, promotion, or changes of the workmen and officers through this department to their Lordships, (as existing prior to the year 1845, and now followed, as regards ships and vessels,) instead of being forwarded direct to the Board at Whitehall; these reports would then be accompanied by such remarks from me, as I may think necessary to bring under the consideration of their Lordships, relative to the establishments or otherwise.

I would also submit that the decision of their Lordships in every case be either returned to me for record, or that I should be acquainted in the usual manner.

(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

22 September—Approved.
(signed) *J. P.*

Write accordingly.
(signed) *F. T. B.*

My dear Mr. Parker, Somerset House, 20 September 1849.

As there are still many blunders respecting the papers from the dockyards, I send the enclosed proposal for your approval, Sir Francis Baring being anxious that it should be carried out as soon as possible.

I have just received your Minute respecting the vacancies for policemen at Devonport, but I think it will be well to allow all appointments to stand over until the 1st of October. I hope you did not suffer from the wretched weather you had at Pembroke.

Always, &c.
(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

John Parker, Esq., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix, No. 1.

COPY of a CIRCULAR sent to the Superintendents of Her Majesty's Dockyards, dated 26 September 1849.

Sir, Admiralty, 26 September 1849.

IN order that the Surveyor of the Navy may be enabled to check and properly control the new establishments of the dockyards which have been recently promulgated, all reports and correspondence on the subject of vacancies, promotion, or changes of the officers and workmen, are in future to be transmitted through him, instead of their Lordships, direct.

I am, &c.
(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 19 April 1852.

WITH reference to their Lordships' order of the 26th September 1849, which directs that all reports and correspondence on the subject of vacancies, promotion, or changes of the officers and workmen of the dockyards, shall be forwarded through the surveyor's department, I am to acquaint you that the order in question is to be considered as cancelled, and that in future such reports and correspondence are to be transmitted direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

By command of their Lordships,
(signed) *Augustus Stafford.*

To the Superintendents of the Dockyards at Deptford, Woolwich, Sheerness, Chatham, Portsmouth, Devonport, and Pembroke.

COPY of FIRST LETTER enclosed in Letter of Sir *B. Walker*, dated 16th March 1853.

Enclosure 1.

(No. 2.)

Sir, Somerset House, 21 April 1852.

YOU having been pleased to inform me that great dissatisfaction existed among your political friends at the manner in which the promotions, &c. were made in the dockyards, and that it was your intention, in consequence, to cancel their Lordships' Circular of the 29th September 1849, which directs that all papers respecting vacancies and promotions should be sent through the Surveyor to their Lordships; and as the cancelling of this Circular is the only step taken to remedy the evil you were pleased to state existed, it can bear no other construction than that of a censure on my conduct. I must, therefore, beg to tender to their Lordships my resignation; for I can no longer continue to hold the appointment of Surveyor of the Navy with such an imputation on my character as that of allowing political motives to influence my submissions to the Board.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

Augustus Stafford, Esq., M. P.,
&c. &c. &c.
Secretary of the Admiralty.

(A true copy.)
(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

Admiralty, 26 April 1852.

MISCONSTRUCTION having arisen with reference to their Lordships' circular issued on the 19th instant, I am to acquaint you that no imputation is intended to be cast thereby upon the Surveyor of the Navy. The arrangements with regard to the Dockyard promotions as laid down by their Lordships' circular of 27th February 1847, will be strictly adhered to, and they deem it desirable to revert to the system then in force of having all communications on the subject addressed to this office in the first instance.

By command of their Lordships,
(signed) *Augustus Stafford.*

To the Superintendents of the Dockyards at Deptford, Woolwich, Sheerness, Chatham, Portsmouth, Devonport, and Pembroke.

Admiralty, 28 April 1852.

I AM to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the superintendents of the several dockyards with reference to their Lordships' circular order of the 19th instant, respecting the transmission of reports and correspondence connected with the removal or promotion of officers and workmen in the yards.

By command of their Lordships,
The Surveyor of the Navy. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Enclosure. Appendix, No. 1.

COPY of CIRCULAR sent to the Superintendents of Her Majesty's Dockyards on the 26th April 1852.

Admiralty, 26 April 1852.

MISCONSTRUCTION having arisen with reference to their Lordships' circular issued on the 19th instant, I am to acquaint you that no imputation is intended to be cast thereby upon the Surveyor of the Navy. The arrangements with regard to the dockyard promotions, as laid down by their Lordships' circular of the 27th February 1847, will be strictly adhered to; and they deem it desirable to revert to the system then in force of having all communications on the subject addressed to this office in the first instance.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

COPY of SECOND LETTER enclosed in Letter of Sir *B. Walker*, dated 16th March 1853.

Enclosure 2.

(No. 5.)

My Lord Duke, Somerset House, 10 May 1852.

I FEEL that I should be neglecting my duty were I not to point out to your Grace the evil system which has been pursued of late, not only with respect to my position as Surveyor of the Navy, but also with reference to the appointments and promotions in the dockyards.

Your Grace is aware that the Secretary of the Admiralty thought proper to cancel, without the knowledge of the Board, their Lordships' Circular of 29th September 1849, which directs that all papers respecting promotions and vacancies in the dockyards should be sent through the Surveyor to their Lordships; this order of 1849 was only reverting to a system which had always been in force prior to 1845, and which was then discontinued, I have reason to believe, on personal grounds.

The abolition of a system which was found to work well for upwards of three years, causing an annual saving of 130,000 *l.* in the wages of the artificers of the dockyards, independent of upwards of 60,000 *l.* in the steam factories, without impairing the efficiency of those establishments, must be prejudicial to the public interests, and has tended much to lower the position of the Surveyor.

Now there is no one to control the establishments, and the Surveyor can no longer be held responsible for the Estimates not being exceeded, or can he be answerable for the efficiency of those establishments; for the Board's admirable Circular of February 1847, which directs that all advancement in the dockyards shall be for merit alone, has been virtually thrown aside; vacancies have been filled up which were not necessary, and men advanced, not for merit, but by political influence; and in one instance a person has been promoted who is not competent to fill the situation to which he has been appointed; and that was done without any reference having been made to the Superintendent of the yard.

Having stated thus much, I think it right to inform your Grace that I attribute the inconsiderate manner in which I have been put aside by the Secretary of the Admiralty to my unqualified refusal to depart from their Lordships' Circular of February 1847, by lending myself to recommend men for advancement on political grounds.

In conclusion, I beg to assure you, my Lord Duke, that I have made this statement from no personal motives, my only wish being the public good, and that your Grace's administration should not be tarnished.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

His Grace the Duke of Northumberland,
&c. &c. &c.
Admiralty.

(A true Copy.)
(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

CIRCULAR ORDER to the SUPERINTENDENTS of Her Majesty's Dockyards at *Deptford, Woolwich, Chatham, Sheerness, Portsmouth, Plymouth*, and *Pembroke*.

MY Lords having considered it advisable to revise and consolidate the general printed Dockyard Instructions, as well as the several Orders issued from time to time for the government of Her Majesty's Naval Establishments, are desirous to obtain any suggestions or observations, as to their practical operation, which you, or the officers under you, may have to offer; if, therefore, any alterations, additions or omissions are thought desirable in the said Instructions or Orders, you are to state, as soon as convenient, what these alterations, additions or omissions should, in your opinion, be; transmitting an abstract of the reasons for such an opinion.

By command, &c.
1 November 1852. (signed) *A. Stafford.*

Appendix, No. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE during the Year 1852, between the Board of Admiralty and Surveyor of the Navy, in reference to the Resignation of his Office.

Sir, Somerset House, 25 November 1852.

Having observed in the public papers that the Secretary of the Admiralty is reported to have stated in the House of Commons, on the evening of the 23d instant, in reply to certain questions asked by Admiral Berkeley and Sir George Pechell, that there was no correspondence with the Surveyor of the Navy on the subject of the promotions in the dockyards, and also, that the Surveyor of the Navy had not tendered his resignation;

I desire, through you, to call the attention of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to letters from me, bearing date the 21st of April and the 10th of May last.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. W. Walker*,
Surveyor of the Navy.

Augustus Stafford, Esq., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.
Secretary of the Admiralty.

Admiralty, 26 November 1852.

With reference to your letter of the 25th instant, I am to acquaint you that your letters of the 21st April and 10th May, referred to by you, do not appear to have reached the Record Department of this office, and my Lords therefore request you will transmit copies of these letters.

By command of their Lordships.
(signed) *A. Stafford.*

Surveyor of the Navy.

Sir, Somerset House, 29 November 1852.

With reference to your letter of the 26th instant, I beg to acquaint you that since my communication of the 25th instant, I have been informed that my letter of the 21st of April, addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, which was delivered to Vice-admiral Hyde Parker, was not brought before the Board; and with reference to the letter of the 10th of May, it was a communication addressed to the First Lord of the Admiralty, and not to the Secretary.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

Augustus Stafford, Esq., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.
Secretary of the Admiralty.

Admiralty, 16 March 1853.

The House of Commons having, on the 14th instant, called for—

"Copies of all correspondence, during the year 1852, between the Board of Admiralty and the Surveyor of the Navy, in reference to the resignation of his office:"

And further ordered that, "In case such correspondence should not be in the office, that the Surveyor should be directed to furnish copies of any letter or letters addressed by him to the Secretary or the First Lord of the Admiralty on such subject:"

And as it appears by your letter of the 29th November last, that you had addressed two letters on this subject to the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Secretary of the Admiralty, viz. one to the former, dated the 10th May 1852, and one to the latter, dated the 21st April 1852, neither of which have ever reached the Record Department of this office:

You are hereby directed to prepare and transmit to me, as soon as possible, copies (in duplicate) of the letters in question, for the purpose of being laid before the House of Commons.

By command of their Lordships.
(signed) *J. H. Hay*, Pro Secretary.

Surveyor of the Navy.

Sir, Somerset House, 16 March 1853.

In compliance with the directions contained in your letter of this day's date, I beg to enclose copies, in duplicate, of my letter of the 10th of May last to the First Lord of the Admiralty, and of the 21st of April last to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. W. Walker*, Surveyor.

R. Bernal Osborne, Esq., M.P.,
&c. &c. &c.
Secretary of the Admiralty.

[Here follow copies of letters of 21st April and 10th May, inserted above.]

Appendix, No. 2.

COPY of all CORRESPONDENCE between the BOARD of ADMIRALTY and Sir *Baldwin Walker*, relative to the withdrawal from him of the Appointments of MASTER SMITHS and other Officers in the Dockyards.

Department of Surveyor of the Navy,
Admiralty, 9 September 1852.

Sir,

WITH reference to the accompanying letter from the Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth, and to their Lordships' decision that an experienced master smith be appointed to Portsmouth yard from the private trade, I beg to state that Mr. James Wells, who is in his 37th year, has been very strongly recommended as being well qualified for the charge of a smithery; and I therefore submit that he be appointed master smith at Portsmouth yard, in the present vacancy, and that, as in the case of Messrs. Black and Ainslie, appointed respectively to Woolwich and Devonport yards, under similar circumstances, he be entered on probation for six months, to be paid at the rate of 200 *l.* a year, with the understanding that if, at the expiration of that period, his conduct and abilities should be found perfectly satisfactory, he shall be appointed master smith at the full salary of 250 *l.* a year.

Appendix, No. 2.

I have, &c.

The Secretary of the Admiralty. (signed) *B. W. Walker*, Surveyor.

Enclosure.

Portsmouth Yard, 6 July 1852.

Sir,

I BEG leave to bring under their Lordships' observation the circumstance of the existing vacancies here for master blacksmith, master sailmaker, and principal foreman of blacksmiths, the latter having been recommended for superannuation yesterday.

I am, &c.

A. Stafford, Esq., M. P. (signed) *H. Prescott.*

Admiralty, 10 September 1852.

MY LORDS have been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard; he is to be entered on probation for six months, and to be paid at the rate of 200 *l.* a year, with the understanding that if, at the expiration of that period, his conduct and abilities shall be found to be perfectly satisfactory, he will be confirmed as master smith, at the full salary of 250 *l.* per annum.

By command of their Lordships,

The Admiral Superintendent at Portsmouth. (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 10 September 1852.

MY LORDS have been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard; he is to be entered on probation for six months, and is to be paid at the rate of 200 *l.* a year, with the understanding that if, at the expiration of that period, his conduct and abilities shall be found to be perfectly satisfactory, he will be confirmed as master smith, at the full salary of 250 *l.* per annum.

By command of their Lordships,

The Surveyor of the Navy.
Accountant-General. (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 1 October 1853.

YOU are to consider their Lordships' order of the 10th ultimo, for the appointment of a master smith, as cancelled.

Mr. George Cotsell, master smith of Chatham yard, has been this day appointed master smith of Portsmouth yard, *vice* Tyler, superannuated.

By command of their Lordships,

Admiral Superintendent, Portsmouth Dockyard. (signed) *J. H. Hay*, Pro Secretary.

Appendix. No. 2.

Admiralty, 1 October 1852.

THE undermentioned appointments have this day taken place; viz.

Mr. George Cotsell, master smith of Chatham Dockyard, to be master smith of Portsmouth yard, *vice* Tyler, superannuated.

Mr. William Smale, foreman of smiths in Woolwich Dockyard, to be acting master smith at Chatham, *vice* Cotsell, at a salary of 200 *l.* a year, with the understanding that, should his conduct and abilities be found at the expiration of six months to be perfectly satisfactory, he will be confirmed as master smith at the full salary of 250 *l.* a year.

By command of their Lordships,

Captain Superintendent, Chatham Dockyard. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Admiralty, 1 October 1852.

MR. WILLIAM SMALE, foreman of smiths in the yard under your superintendence, has been this day appointed acting master smith of Chatham Dockyard, *vice* Cotsell, removed to Portsmouth, at a salary of 200 *l.* a year, with the understanding that, should his conduct and abilities be found at the expiration of six months to be perfectly satisfactory, he will be confirmed as master smith at the full salary of 250 *l.* a year.

By command of their Lordships,

Commodore Superintendent, Woolwich Dockyard. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Admiralty, 1 October 1852.

THEIR Lordships' order of the 10th ultimo, for the appointment of a master smith to Portsmouth yard, has been cancelled; and the undermentioned appointments have this day taken place.

Mr. George Cotsell, master smith of Chatham yard, to be master smith of Portsmouth yard, *vice* Tyler, superannuated.

Mr. William Smale, foreman of smiths, Woolwich yard, to be acting master smith at Chatham, at a salary of 200 *l.* a year, with the understanding that, should his conduct and abilities be found, at the expiration of six months, to be perfectly satisfactory, he will be confirmed as master smith at the full salary of 250 *l.* a year.

By command of their Lordships,

Surveyor of the Navy.
Accountant-General. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Sir, Admiralty, 1 October 1852.

MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having appointed you master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Portsmouth, it is their Lordships' direction that you repair immediately to the superintendent of the said dockyard for your appointment, and that you report to me the day on which you shall have joined the yard.

It is desired that you acknowledge the receipt of this letter.

I am, &c.

Mr. George Cotsell, Master Smith, H. M.'s Dockyard, Chatham. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

BY the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, &c.

To Mr. George Cotsell,

WHEREAS we think fit to appoint you to be master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Portsmouth, you are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith, and take upon yourself the duties of that situation, following such orders and directions as you shal receive from the superintendent of the said dockyard, or from any other your superior officer for the time being; for which this shall be your warrant.

Given under our hands this 1st day of October 1852.

(signed) *T. Herbert.*
A. Duncombe.

By command of their Lordships,

Vice Tyler, superannuated. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Sir,

Sir, Admiralty, 1 October 1852.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that you have been this day appointed acting master smith of Chatham Dockyard, at a salary of 200 *l.* a year, and that, should your conduct and abilities be found, at the expiration of six months, to be perfectly satisfactory, you will be confirmed as master smith at the full salary of 250 *l.* a year.

Your warrant will be with the Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard.

I am, &c.

Mr. William Smale, Foreman of Smiths, H. M.'s Dockyard, Woolwich. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

BY the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, &c.

To Mr. William Smale,

WHEREAS we think fit to appoint you to be acting master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Chatham, you are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith, and take upon yourself the duties of that situation, following such orders and directions as you shall receive from the superintendent of the said dockyard, or from any other your superior officer for the time being; for which this shall be your warrant.

Given under our hands the 1st day of October 1852.

(signed) *T. Herbert.*
A. Duncombe.

By command of their Lordships,

Vice Cotsell to Portsmouth Yard. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Admiralty, 16 October 1852.

WITH reference to the promotion of Mr. Smale, foreman of smiths in the yard under your superintendence, and to their Lordships' order of the 21st May 1849, for the reduction of the establishment on a vacancy occurring, I am to acquaint you that Mr. Richard Forbes has been appointed second-class foreman of smiths in Woolwich yard, *vice* Smale, at a salary of 125 *l.* a year.

By command of their Lordships,

Commodore Superintendent, Woolwich Dockyard. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Admiralty, 16 October 1852.

MR. RICHARD FORBES, foreman of smiths in the yard under your superintendence, has been this day appointed second-class foreman of smiths in Woolwich yard.

By command of their Lordships,

Captain Superintendent, Sheerness Dockyard. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Sir, Admiralty, 16 October 1852.

MY Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having appointed you second-class foreman of smiths in Woolwich Dockyard, it is their Lordships' direction that you repair immediately to the superintendent of that yard for your appointment, and that you report to me the day on which you shall have joined the yard.

I am, &c.

Mr. Richard Forbes, Foreman of Smiths, H. M.'s Dockyard, Sheerness. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

BY the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, &c.

To Mr. Richard Forbes.

WHEREAS we think fit to appoint you to be second-class foreman of smiths in Her Majesty's Dockyard at Woolwich; you are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith, and take upon yourself the duties of that situation, following such orders and directions

Appendix, No. 2.

tions as you shall receive from the superintendent of the said dockyard, or from any other your superior officer for the time being; for which this shall be your warrant.

Given under our hands the 16th day of October 1852.

(signed) *P. Hornby.*
T. Herbert.

By command of their Lordships,

Vice Smale to Chatham yard. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Admiralty, 16 October 1852.

Mr. Richard Forbes, foreman of smiths in Sheerness Dockyard, has been this day appointed second-class foreman of smiths in Woolwich Dockyard, *vice* Smale, appointed to Chatham yard.

By command of their Lordships,

Surveyor of the Navy.
Accountant-General. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Admiralty, 16 October 1852.

Mr. Thomas Bailey, foreman of smiths in Woolwich Dockyard, has been this day appointed foreman of smiths in the yard under your superintendence, *vice* Forbes, to Woolwich yard.

By command of their Lordships,

Captain Superintendent,
Sheerness Dockyard. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Admiralty, 16 October 1852.

Mr. Thomas Bailey, foreman of smiths in the yard under your superintendence, has been this day appointed foreman of smiths in Sheerness Dockyard, *vice* Forbes, to Woolwich yard.

By command of their Lordships,

Commodore Superintendent,
Woolwich Dockyard. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

Sir, Admiralty, 16 October 1852.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having appointed you foreman of smiths in Her Majesty's Dockyard at Sheerness, it is their Lordships' direction that you repair immediately to the superintendent of that yard for your appointment, and that you report to me the day on which you shall have joined the yard.

I have, &c.

Mr. Thomas Bailey, Foreman of Smiths,
H. M.'s Dockyard, Woolwich. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

BY the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, &c.

To Mr. Thomas Bailey,

Whereas we think fit to appoint you to be foreman of smiths in Her Majesty's Dockyard at Sheerness, you are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith, and take upon yourself the duties of that situation, following such orders and directions as you shall receive from the superintendent of the said dockyard, or from any other your superior officer for the time being; for which this shall be your warrant.

Given under our hands the 16th day of October 1852.

(signed) *T. Herbert.*
A. Milne.

By command of their Lordships,

(signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

TO

TO the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

The Memorial of Mr. *James Wells*, late Master Smith at Her Majesty's Dockyard, Portsmouth,—

Humbly sheweth,

That your memorialist was induced, after an interview with Sir Baldwin Walker, the Surveyor of the Navy, to accept an appointment as master smith in Her Majesty's Dockyard, Portsmouth, on probation for six months, at a salary of 200*l.* per annum, at the end of which period, if his conduct and abilities were approved by your Lordships, he was to be established at the full salary of 250*l.* a year.

On receipt of his appointment your memorialist relinquished a business in which he had invested 1,200*l.*, and proceeded to Portsmouth, confident in his ability to give satisfaction (which he has the gratification of knowing he afforded to both officers and men during his short stay), and anxiously looking forward to the expiration of his probationary term; but was deeply mortified at the end of a fortnight, to receive his dismissal, without any reason being assigned for such proceeding.

Your memorialist, in calling your Lordships' attention to these facts, is anxious to bring under your notice the heavy pecuniary sacrifice he has made, not only in relinquishing a profitable business, but also in travelling, and the expenses of removing his family; and particularly the stigma that is thrown on his character by his dismissal, which, until it be removed, will almost render it impossible for him to resume business with any chance of success.

Trusting that your Lordships will be pleased to take his case into your favourable consideration,

Your memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed) *James Wells.*

Admiralty, 16 October 1852.

In forwarding the enclosed memorial from Mr. James Wells, the late master smith of Portsmouth yard, I beg to draw their Lordships' attention to the peculiar circumstances of his case, and to the following particulars respecting his appointment.

When their Lordships decided, in August last, that the vacancy for a master smith at Portsmouth should be filled by the appointment of a competent person from the private trade, as had been done at Woolwich and Devonport yards, Mr. Black, the master smith of the former yard, was consulted on the subject, and strongly recommended Mr. Wells, who had served with him in the same firm at Liverpool, as a man well qualified by experience and ability to take charge of a smithery.

Mr. Wells was, consequently, directed to proceed to Somerset House, and was examined by myself and Mr. Lloyd, the chief engineer, as to his qualifications for the appointment, which were considered so highly satisfactory that I submitted for the approval of their Lordships that he should be appointed master smith at Portsmouth, and that the other vacancies at that yard for first and second foremen of smiths should be filled by the promotion of those qualified persons next in seniority in their respective grades.

Their Lordships approved of this arrangement, by their order dated the 10th September, appointing Mr. Wells master smith, and Mr. Willcocks first foreman of smiths in Portsmouth yard.

Mr. Wells immediately proceeded to that yard to take up his appointment, and, during the time that he had charge of the smithery, he gave universal satisfaction.

Mr. Wells, however, was superseded in his appointment by Mr. Cotsell, the master smith of Chatham yard, being removed to Portsmouth by their Lordships' order of the 1st October, and, being thus early deprived of his situation, without any notice, or reason assigned, he is not only thrown out of employ, but also put to great pecuniary loss, and naturally feels much aggrieved by such an unexpected and sudden removal.

He was induced to relinquish his situation and prospects in the private trade for the more certain appointment in Her Majesty's service; and in consequence of having accepted that situation he now finds himself deprived of employment, and I feel in a measure personally responsible for the serious injury which, by the cancelling of his appointment, has been inflicted on this highly deserving individual, he having been engaged by me, although under their Lordships' sanction.

I therefore submit his case, as one of peculiar hardship, for their Lordships' favourable consideration, observing that Mr. Wells has been anxiously waiting in London for the last fortnight, in hopes of their Lordships' decision in reference to his future disposal.

(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

Appendix, No. 2.

Sir, Admiralty, 18 October 1852.

I HAVE received your memorial without date; and I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that they are not aware that you have received any appointment from them, and that their Lordships do not consider you justified in designating yourself "late master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Portsmouth;" they therefore return you your memorial.

If, however, from any communication with any of the officers of the several departments, you have been led to expect such an appointment, their Lordships are prepared to give their consideration to any memorial from you on that subject; but my Lords cannot recognise you as late master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, as no warrant has been given to you by their Lordships for such appointment.

I am also to desire that, in any future communication to their Lordships, you will state your address.

I am, &c.

Mr. James Wells. (signed) *Aug. Stafford.*

66, Bridgewater-street, Liverpool,

My Lords, 6 January 1853.

ON the 13th September last I had the honour to receive the appointment of master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard, as will be seen on reference to Document No. 1, forwarded to me by direction of Sir Baldwin Walker, Surveyor to the Navy; in consequence of which I relinquished my business, at a considerable loss, and proceeded to Portsmouth to enter upon my duties, as desired, on 22d September last, and continued to fulfil the duties of the department until the 2d October 1852, when, to my great surprise, I received Document No. 2, informing me that my appointment had been cancelled, no reason having been assigned for such proceeding. I, at the same time, received Document No. 3, containing my discharge. I then forwarded to your Lordships a memorial (Document No. 4), requesting an investigation into the case, to which I received Document No. 5 in reply, informing me that your Lordships were not aware of my appointment, and that, consequently, I was not justified in designating myself "late master smith."

These, your Lordships, are the particulars of my case. As before said, upon receipt of Document No. 1, I at once, and at a very large pecuniary sacrifice, gave up my business at Liverpool, a lucrative one, and proceeded to Portsmouth at a considerable expense. I trust, therefore, that your Lordships will render me the justice of causing a searching investigation into the case, in order to render me clear of any imputation that may rest upon my character in consequence of so sudden and unlooked-for a dismissal.

I have great pleasure in referring your Lordships to Document No. 6, for testimonial of character, ability, &c.

I have, &c.

To the Right Honourable (signed) *James Wells.*
The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

My Lords, Liverpool, 6 January 1853.

BELIEVING that the case of James Wells, whose memorial, with the documents it refers to, I take the liberty of forwarding herewith, is one of very great hardship, and that demands a searching inquiry, I beg very respectfully to be excused for trespassing on your time and attention in the matter, requesting that you will cause an investigation to be made into the circumstances, and, if you deem right, that the prayer of the memorial may be complied with.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Robertson Gladstone.*

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Document No. 1.

Sir, Admiralty, Somerset House.

I AM directed by Sir Baldwin Walker to acquaint you that their Lordships have been pleased to appoint Mr. James Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth yard; and he requests you will communicate this to Mr. Wells, in order that he may make arrangements to take up his appointment.

I am, &c.

Mr. G. Black, Master Smith, (signed) *Walter D. Eden.*
Woolwich.

[Date not known; but as the Admiralty Order appointing Mr. Wells was dated 10th September, it is presumed this communication was dated 11th September.]

Document

Document No. 2.

EXTRACT of Admiral Superintendent's Memorandum of this day.

Portsmouth Yard, 2 October 1852.

THE order appointing a master smith to Portsmouth yard, dated the 13th ultimo, cancelled. Mr. George Cotsell was yesterday appointed master smith of this yard, *vice* Tyler, superannuated.

(signed) *H. C. Miller.*

Mr. Wells.

Document No. 3.

To be delivered to every Person who may be Discharged from the Establishment.

I HEREBY certify that Mr. James Wells, late master smith, on probation of six months, of this establishment, was discharged on the 2d October 1852, and has been paid to the inclusive; and further, that he has served in this establishment in the several capacities hereinafter stated.

His appointment having been cancelled, per Admiral Superintendent's Memorandum of 2d October 1852.

In what Capacity.	Period in such Capacity.		Whether on Pay or Salary.
	From.	To.	
Master Smith (on probation) per Admiralty Order, 10 September 1852.			

Given under my hand at Portsmouth Dockyard this 2d day of October 1852.

(signed) *W. C. Edwards*, Storekeeper.

DOCUMENTS Nos. 4 and 5 are the Memorial of Mr. James Wells, and the letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty, in answer thereto, dated Admiralty, 18 October 1852, copies of which precede Mr. Wells' memorial, dated 6th January 1853, *see* pages 367 and 368.

Document No. 6.

THE bearer, Mr. James Wells, was for some years foreman blacksmith in my establishment, and subsequently carrying on the business on his own account after my retirement. I can highly recommend him, not only as a first-rate practical workman, but also a man of excellent abilities and judgment in a theoretical point of view, as instanced in his improvements in the davits for lowering the paddle-box boats of sea-going steamers, without the aid of booms.

Liverpool, 2 November 1852. (signed) *James Wilson.*

Sir, Admiralty, 27 January 1853.

I HAVE received, and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, your letter of the 6th inst., and am commanded to acquaint you that my Lords having considered your case, it is their intention to replace you in the situation of master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, to which you were appointed in September last, on probation, and that you should repair forthwith to the Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard for your warrant.

I have, &c.

Mr. James Wells, (signed) *W. A. B.ª Hamilton.*
66, Bridgewater-street, Liverpool.

Appendix, No. 2.

BY the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, &c.

To Mr. James Wells,

WHEREAS we think fit to appoint you to be acting master smith of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Portsmouth, you are hereby required and directed to proceed forthwith, and take upon yourself the duties of that situation, following such orders and directions as you shall receive from the Superintendent of the said dockyard, or from any other your superior officer for the time being; for which this shall be your warrant.

Given under our hands the 27th day of January 1853.

(signed) *R. S. Dundas,*
Alexander Milne.

By command of their Lordships,

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 27 January 1853.

THEIR Lordships have been pleased to replace Mr. James Wells in the situation of acting master smith in Portsmouth Dockyard, to which he was appointed on the 10th September last, to be on probation for six months, with salary at the rate of 200 *l.* a year, and to be confirmed in six months, should his conduct and abilities be reported perfectly satisfactoy, with the full salary of 250 *l.* a year. Mr. George Cotsell is to return as master smith to Chatham yard.

By command of their Lordships,

Admaral Superintendent, Portsmouth Dockyard.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 27 January 1853.

MR. JAMES WELLS having been replaced in the situation of master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, Mr. George Cotsell has been directed to return to the yard under your superintendence as master smith; and Mr. William Smale, now master smith of Chatham yard, is to return to his position as foreman of smiths in Woolwich Dockyard, but will be noted for their Lordships' favourable consideration in the first vacancy for a master smith.

By command of their Lordships,

Captain Superintendent, Chatham Dockyard.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 27 January 1853.

MR. JAMES WELLS having been replaced in his appointment as master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, Mr. George Cotsell has been ordered to return as master smith to Chatham Dockyard, and Mr. William Smale as foreman of smiths to Woolwich yard, and Mr. Smale will be noted for the Board's favourable consideration in the first vacancy for a master smith.

By command of their Lordships,

Commodore Superintendent, Woolwich Dockyard.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 27 January 1853.

THEIR Lordships have been pleased to replace Mr. James Wells in his situation of master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, on probation for six months, with salary at the rate of 200 *l.* a year, to be confirmed at the end of that period, with the full salary of 250 *l.* a year, should his conduct and abilities be reported perfectly satisfactory.

Mr. George Cotsell has been directed to return as master smith to Chatham yard, and Mr. William Smale as foreman of smiths to Woolwich yard, but to be noted for favourable consideration on the first vacancy for a master smith.

By command of their Lordships,

Surveyor of the Navy.
Accountant-General.

(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty,

Admiralty, 31 January 1853.

Mr. William Smale having been ordered to return to Woolwich yard, Mr. Richard Forbes, now second-class foreman of smiths at Woolwich yard, is to return to Sheerness, and Mr. Thomas Bailey, who was appointed to Mr. Forbes' vacancy at Sheerness, is to return to Woolwich as foreman of smiths.

By command of their Lordships,

Commodore Superintendent, Woolwich Dockyard. (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 31 January 1853.

Mr. Richard Forbes, now foreman of smiths in Woolwich Dockyard, has been ordered to return to Sheerness yard, and Mr. Thomas Bailey, who was appointed to Mr. Forbes' vacancy on the 16th October last, is to return to Woolwich yard, as foreman of smiths, and is to be directed to return his warrant, when the stamp duty paid by him on the same will be returned to him.

By command of their Lordships,

Captain Superintendent, Sheerness Dockyard. (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Admiralty, 31 January 1853.

The following additional changes have taken place, consequent on the appointment of Mr. James Wells master smith to Portsmouth Dockyard.

Mr. Richard Forbes, now second-class foreman of smiths at Woolwich, to return as foreman to Sheerness.

Mr. Thomas Bailey, who was appointed to fill Mr. Forbes' vacancy, to return as foreman of smiths to Woolwich yard.

By command of their Lordships,

Surveyor of the Navy, Accountant-General. (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

COPIES of any Letter from Mr. *George Cotsell*, requesting to remain at *Portsmouth* as Master Smith; of his Discharge Document; of any Reports or Communications respecting his Character and Abilities, from any of the Dockyard Officers at *Portsmouth*; of any Order or Decision of their Lordships in August last (referred to by the Surveyor of the Navy in his Submission of the 16th October 1852), in reference to Mr. *James Wells*; and, of the Warrant of Appointment of Mr. *James Wells* as Acting Master Smith of *Portsmouth* Dockyard.

TO the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

The Memorial of *George Cotsell*, Master Smith, Her Majesty's Dockyard, Portsmouth,

Respectfully showeth,

That your Lordship's memorialist was appointed, at his own request, master smith at this yard, by "Warrant," dated 1st October 1852; and that, by Memorandum of this day's date, he is ordered to return to Chatham yard, being superseded by "Mr. James Wells," on six months' probation,

That your Lordships' memorialist being settled at this yard, and having, as he trusts, given satisfaction to the officers by his conduct, and the way in which he has carried on the duties of his situation, and having, moreover, a large family, which he has removed to this place at a great expense, humbly begs, if such an arrangement would meet with the concurrence of your Lordships, to be allowed to effect an exchange with Mr. Wells, so that your Lordships' memorialist may enjoy the benefit of remaining at this yard.

And your Lordships' memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed) *George Cotsell.*

Portsmouth Yard, 29 January 1853.

Appendix, No. 2.

I BEG to submit the above for the consideration of the Admiral Superintendent, and to observe that, for professional ability, and general fitness for the situation of master smith in this yard, with regard to faithfulness, economy, and appreciation of modern improvements in smithery work, I have the highest possible opinion of Mr. Cotsell.

(signed) *R. Abethell,* Master Shipwright.

1 February 1853.

Portsmouth Dockyard, 1 February 1853.

SUBMITTED for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, being satisfied with Mr. Cotsell's performance of his duties, as far as has come under my observation, during the short time of my superintendence.

(signed) *Arthur Fanshawe,*
Admiral Superintendent.

Sir, Portsmouth Yard, 5 February 1853.

MR. JAMES WELLS being quite willing to exchange with me (having no particular preference to Portsmouth yard over that of Chatham), and as I should greatly prefer remaining at this yard now that I am settled, he has authorised me to write to request you will be pleased to move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to sanction the exchange.

I have, &c.
(signed) *George Cotsell,*
Master Smith, Chatham Yard.

Bernal Osborne, Esq., M.P.,
Secretary of the Admiralty, &c. &c. &c.
Whitehall.

MEMORANDUM.

THE discharge document of Mr. Costell from Portsmouth yard was delivered to himself; no copy of it is lodged in this office, it not being usual to do so; and upon reference to Portsmouth yard, it is stated that no copy of it was preserved there.

SURVEYOR OF THE NAVY.

(Immediate.)

Admiralty, 13 April 1853.

WITH reference to the papers moved for by Mr. Stafford on the 12th April, as to the decision of the Board in August last, on the subject of filling up the vacancy of master smith at Portsmouth, by the appointment of a competent person from the private trade, and referred to in your submission of the 16th October, I am to acquaint you, that such decision does not appear in this office, and to desire that you will supply a copy of the same.

By command of their Lordships,

(signed) *J. H. Hay,*
Pro Secretary.

Sir, Somerset House, 13 April 1853.

IN reply to your letter of this day's date, directing me to supply a copy of the decision of August last, therein referred to, respecting the selection of a person from the private trade to be master smith at Portsmouth, I beg to acquaint you that there is no official document on the subject in this office, but that such decision was communicated to me by Vice-Admiral Hyde Parker.

I have, &c.
(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

The Secretary of the Admiralty.
&c. &c. &c.

Appendix, No. 3.

A RETURN of the several APPOINTMENTS and PROMOTIONS [of SALARIED OFFICERS] which took place in the several DOCKYARDS and VICTUALLING YARDS during the Years 1851 and 1852; specifying the Months in which such Appointments and Promotions were made; and in every Case of Promotion or Advancement (where the same is practicable), specifying upon whose Recommendation the same were made, omitting Clerks and others not advanced from the Line of Artificers.

DATE.	YARD.	Appointment.	Name of Person Appointed.	Recommendation.
23 January 1851 -	- - Deptford Victualling yard.	Master miller - -	Edward Shepherd -	- - None appears; but he previously filled the same situation at Gosport.
29 January „ -	- - Gosport Victualling yard.	- - Leading man of millers.	David Ford - -	Officers of the yard.
4 February „ -	- - Deptford Victualling yard.	- - First-class leading man of storehouses.	Andrew Wilson -	Officers of the yard.
4 February „ -	- - Deptford Victualling yard.	- - Second-class leading man of storehouses.	John Arthur - -	Officers of the yard.
7 September „ -	Woolwich Dockyard -	- - Chief engineer and inspector of steam-machinery.	Charles Atherton -	Surveyor of the Navy.
24 October „ -	Devonport Dockyard	- - First foreman of smiths.	Richard Truscott -	Surveyor of the Navy.
20 November „ -	Devonport Dockyard	- - Master smith (on probation).	Adam Ainslie - -	Surveyor of the Navy.
30 November „ -	Devonport Dockyard	- - Second foreman of smiths.	Henry Devonshire -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
2 February 1852 -	Devonport Dockyard	- - Foreman of rope-makers.	William W. Snook -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
2 February „ -	Portsmouth Dockyard	Layer in ropery -	James Johnson -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
2 February „ -	Chatham Dockyard -	- - Acting layer in ropery.	William A. Flood -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
2 February „ -	Chatham Dockyard -	- - Foreman of rope-makers.	John T. Taylor -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
2 February „ -	Chatham Dockyard -	- - Acting leading man of ropemakers.	William Barber -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
6 February „ -	Deptford Dockyard -	Timber inspector -	John Williams - -	Surveyor of the Navy.
21 February „ -	- - Plymouth Victualling yard.	- - Leading man of millers.	T. B. Emery - -	- - Officers of Deptford Victualling yard.
12 March „ -	- - Gosport Victualling yard.	- - Leading man of bakers.	George Snook - -	Officers of the yard.
22 March „ -	Woolwich Dockyard -	- - First class inspector of shipwrights.	James Hugill - -	Officers of the yard.
22 March „ -	Woolwich Dockyard -	- - Inspector of shipwrights.	John Isaac - -	Officers of the yard.
24 April „ -	- - Plymouth Victualling yard.	- - First-class leading man of storehouses.	William Blackney -	Officers of the yard.
24 April „ -	- - Plymouth Victualling yard.	- - Second-class leading man of storehouses.	John Parkin - -	Officers of the yard.
24 May „ -	- - Plymouth Victualling yard.	- - Superintendent of watering place.	J. W. Wotton - -	Officers of the yard.
24 May „ -	- - Plymouth Victualling yard.	- - Second class leading man of storehouses.	George Elms - -	Officers of the yard.

(continued)

Date.	Yard.	Appointment.	Name of Person Appointed.	Recommendation.
14 June 1852 -	Devonport Dockyard	- - Master smith (confirmed).	Adam Ainslie - -	Officers of the yard.
25 June „ -	Woolwich Dockyard -	- - First timber converter.	Joseph R. Hawkes -	Officers of the yard.
25 June „ -	Woolwich Dockyard -	- - Second timber converter.	William Carr - -	Officers of the yard.
6 July „ -	Pembroke Dockyard -	- - Temporary acting inspector of caulkers.	John Evans - -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
2 July * „ -	Portsmouth Dockyard	Master shipwright -	Richard Abethell -	Surveyor of the Navy.
2 July * „ -	Pembroke Dockyard -	Master shipwright -	William M. Rice -	- - Officers of Portsmouth Yard and Surveyor of Navy.
2 July * „ -	Portsmouth Dockyard	- - Assistant to master shipwright.	William Moody -	- - Officers of Woolwich yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
2 July * „ -	Woolwich Dockyard -	- - Foreman of shipwrights.	William Hutchens -	Surveyor of the Navy.
27 July * „ -	Chatham Dockyard -	Measurer - - -	Jeremiah Lewcock -	Surveyor of the Navy.
10 August „ -	Portsmouth Dockyard	Master sailmaker -	Samuel R. Lash -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
19 August „ -	Sheerness Dockyard -	- - Foreman of sailmakers	Isaac Stephenson -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of Navy.
10 September „ -	Portsmouth Dockyard	- - First foreman of smiths.	William Willcocks -	- - Officers of the yard and Surveyor of the Navy.
1 October „ -	Portsmouth Dockyard	Master smith - -	George Cotsell -	- - Memorial for removal, forwarded by Officers of Chatham yard, without comment.
1 October „ -	Chatham Dockyard -	- - Acting master smith (on probation).	William Smale -	- - None appears in the Records of the Admiralty.
16 October „ -	Woolwich Dockyard -	- - Second-class foreman of smiths.	Richard Forbes -	- - Officers of Sheerness yard.
16 October „ -	Sheerness Dockyard -	Foreman of smiths -	Thomas Bailey -	- - Officers of Woolwich yard.
2 November „ -	- - Deptford Victualling yard.	- - First-class leading man of storehouses.	John Arthur - -	Officers of the yard.
2 November „ -	- - Deptford Victualling yard.	- - Second-class leading man of storehouses.	Gordon Elder - -	*See Note* †
2 November „ -	- - Deptford Victualling yard.	- - First foreman of coopers.	Charles J. Lewis -	Officers of the yard.
2 November „ -	- - Deptford Victualling yard.	- - Second foreman of coopers.	Thomas S. Longhurst	*See Note* ‡
6 November „ -	Portsmouth Dockyard	- - Inspector of shipwrights.	Thomas Loney -	Officers of the yard.
23 November „ -	Portsmouth Dockyard	- - Assistant Inspector of steam machinery.	William Lynn - -	- - Chief engineer of Portsmouth yard and Surveyor of the Navy.

* The five officers marked thus, were promoted in consequence of the retirement of Mr. Fincham, the Master Shipwright of Portsmouth yard, and the removal of Mr. Abethell from Pembroke to Portsmouth.—*B. W. Walker.*

† Mr. Gordon Elder was not one of the three recommended by the officers of the yard; the only recommendation is contained in memorials from him last year, which were backed by the Vicar of St. Nicholas and several other inhabitants of Deptford.

‡ Mr. Longhurst was not one of the three recommended by the officers of the yard. Being subsequently called on for a report as to his fitness for First Foreman, the officers reported that, although a good workman, they did not consider that he had a sufficient knowledge of arithmetic for a foreman of coopers; and that his discharge from the service in August 1849, for drunkenness in the yard, prevented them from recommending him for so important a post.

Appointment Branch, Admiralty,
13 May 1853.

J. H. Jesse.

Appendix, No. 4.

ROYAL CLARENCE YARD, PORTSMOUTH.

A RETURN of all OFFICERS, MEN, APPRENTICES, and BOYS ordered to be Entered, Promoted, and Advanced at this Yard between the 1st March and 31st December 1852, specifying by what Authority, with their several Stations and Ages, the Dates of their respective Entries, and showing, in cases of Non-Entry, whether owing to Rejections or Non-Appearance.

NAME.	STATION.	Age 1 July 1852.	PROMOTED		Date of Promotion or of Entry in Service.	Authority ("A. O." Admiralty Order.)	REMARKS.
			From	To			
W. J. Hope Johnstone	- - Captain Superintendent.	54	- Serving as Captain of H.M.S. "Albion."		27 July 1852	A. O. 2 July 1852	Vice Sir W. E. Parry, promoted to Rear-Admiral.
Chas. Foster - -	- - Clerk of 1st Class.	56	- - Clerk, 2d Class.	- - Clerk, 1st Class.	23 Nov. „	„ 23 Nov. „	„ Churcher, superannuated after 51 years' servitude.
William H. Churcher -	- - Clerk of 2d Class.	20	- - Clerk, 3d Class.	- - Clerk, 2d Class.	„ „	„ „ „	„ Foster, promoted.
Chas. H. Pinhorn -	- - Clerk of 3d Class.	18	- - Extra clerk Deptford Victualling Yard.	- - Clerk, 3d Class.	„ „	„ „ „	„ Churcher, promoted.
George Snook - -	- Leading man of bakers.	42	Furner - -	- Leading man of bakers.	1 April „	„ 12 March „	„ Patterson, superannuated, after 51 years' servitude.
Chas. Westlake -	Furner* -	27	Doughmaker -	Furner - -	„ „	- - Captain Superintendent's Order, 1 April 1853.	„ Snook, promoted.
George Hazard - -	Doughmaker -	24	- - Labourer of 2d Class.	Doughmaker -	„ „	„ „ „	„ Westlake, promoted.
Peter Seagrove -	- - Labourer, 2d Class.	36	- - Labourer, 3d Class.	- - Labourer, 2d Class.	4 Nov. „	A. O. 4 Nov. 1852	„ Brown, discharged by his own request.
Robt. Scott - -	- - Labourer, 3d Class, and bandmaster, Royal Clarence Yard Battalion.	56	- - First entry - -		11 Oct. „	„ 2 Oct. „	„ Dunn, discharged by his own request.
John Hammond -	- ditto -	21	- - First entry - -		27 „ „	„ 25 Oct. „	„ Dunbar, appointed a police constable, Portsmouth Yard.
John Treen - -	- ditto -	23	- - First entry - -		13 Dec. „	„ 10 Dec. „	„ Hammond, appointed a police constable, Portsmouth Yard.
John P. Luke - -	- - Police Constable.	34	- - First entry - -		23 July „	„ 16 July „	„ Heath, discharged for theft.
Jas. W. Doughty -	- Boy, 2d Class Bakehouse.	13	- - First entry - -		27 May „	„ 24 May „	- - Additional boys required at bakery; more ovens employed.
Jas. Childs - -	- ditto -	16	- - First entry - -		27 „ „	„ „ „	
Victualling Boys:							
John Hutchins - -	- - Able Seaman, "Alpheus."	19	Boy, "Sisters"	Able Seaman -	24 May „	„ „ „	Vice Sweetenham, discharged by his own request.
Joseph Pearson -	Boy, "Sisters"	16	- - First entry - -		24 „ „	„ „ „	„ Hutchins, promoted.
William Webb -	Boy, "Bounty"	14	- - First entry - -		24 „ „	„ „ „	„ Harding, to "Alpheus."
Chas. P. Durrant -	Boy, "Kitty"	14	- - First entry - -		7 Aug. „	„ 6 Aug. „	„ Pook, discharged by his own request.
Silas Gale - - -	Boy, "Swale"	15	- - First entry - -		10 July „	„ 9 July „	„ Clevendon, discharged by his own request.
Joseph J. Sweetenham	Boy, "Bat" -	15	- - First entry - -		10 „ „	„ „ „	„ Murrant, discharged by his own request.

* Furner, the man in charge of the oven.

John Davies, Master Attendant.
Joseph Pinhorn, Storekeeper.

(Approved)

W. J. Hope Johnstone,
Superintendent and Rear-Admiral.

The Superintendent.
Rear-Admiral W. J. Hope Johnstone,
&c. &c. &c.

ROYAL CLARENCE YARD—*continued.*

A RETURN of the NAMES of all OFFICERS, MEN, APPRENTICES, and BOYS, recommended for Promotion or Advancement at this Yard, between the 1st March and the 31st December 1852, but who have been passed over in their order of Merit.

Not any Officers, Men, Apprentices, or Boys recommended, nor passed over at this Yard.

The Superintendent,
Rear-Admiral W. J. Hope Johnstone,
&c. &c. &c.

John Davies, Master Attendant.
Joseph Pinhorn, Storekeeper.

(Approved)
W. J. Hope Johnstone,
Superintendent and Rear-Admiral.

ROYAL WILLIAM YARD, PLYMOUTH.

A RETURN of all OFFICERS, MEN, APPRENTICES, and BOYS, ordered to be Entered, Promoted, and Advanced in this Yard, between the 1st March and 31st December 1852, specifying by what Authority, with their several Stations and Ages, the Dates of their respective Entries, and showing, in cases of Non-entry, whether owing to Rejection or Non-Appearance.

NAMES.	Age.	Promotion		Date of Promotion of Entry.	Authority.	REMARKS.
		From	To			
William Blackney	46	2d Class leading man of Storehouses.	1st Class ditto	24 April 1852	Admiralty	Recommended by Captain Superintendent.
John Parkin	44	Messenger	2d Class leading man of Storehouses.	„ „ „	ditto	Ditto ditto.
Algernon J. Wotton	54	2d Class leading man of Storehouses.	Superintendent of Watering Place, at Bovisand.	„ May „	ditto	Reference made from Admiralty as to fitness.
George Elms	60	Leading man of labourers.	2d Class leading man of Storehouses.	„ „ „	ditto	Recommended by Captain Superintendent.
Richard Rendle	41	2d Class labourer	Messenger	3 „ „	ditto	Ditto ditto.
John Taylor	48	1st Class labourer	Leading man of labourers.	28 „ „	ditto	Ditto ditto.
Thomas Dunning	20	Apprentice	Miller	16 „ „	ditto	Ditto ditto.
Wm. H. Hawkins	26	3d Class labourer	Police constable	20 Nov. „	ditto	Appointed direct from the Admiralty.
George Byrne	27	First entry	3d Class labourer	1 April „	ditto	Transferred from Extra List to Establishment per Admiralty Order, 10 December 1851.
George Searle	29	ditto	ditto	„ „ „	ditto	ditto.
Edwin Searle	28	ditto	ditto	„ „ „	ditto	ditto.
Alfred Searle	31	ditto	ditto	„ „ „	ditto	ditto.
John Davis	35	ditto	ditto	„ „ „	ditto	ditto.
Thomas Adams	28	ditto	ditto	8 June „	ditto	ditto.
Richard A. Hoskins	34	ditto	ditto	10 Aug. „	ditto	ditto.
Nicholas Opie	32	ditto	ditto	8 Dec. „	ditto	ditto.

Royal William Victualling Yard,
3 May 1853.

Robert Watson,
(For Storekeeper, absent with leave).

(Approved)
J. W. Johnstone, Master Attendant,
(For Captain Superintendent on leave).

All approved by Superintendent.

A RETURN of the NAMES of all OFFICERS, MEN, APPRENTICES, and BOYS recommended for Promotion or Advancement in this Yard, between the 1st March and the 31st December 1852, but who have been passed over in their order of Merit.

— Nil. —

Royal William Victualling Yard, Plymouth,
3 May 1853.

Robert Watson,
(For Storekeeper, absent with leave.)

(Approved)
J. W. Armstrong, Master Attendant,
(For Captain Superintendent on leave).

Appendix, No. 5.

DEPTFORD.

A RETURN of the NAMES of all OFFICERS, MEN, APPRENTICES, and BOYS recommended for Promotion or Advancement in this Yard, between the 1st March and 31st December 1852; but who have been passed over in their Order of Merit.

Persons Recommended.	Quality.	Date of Recommendation	For what Appointment.	Person Appointed.	Date.	Remarks.
Henry G. Harlowe	- - Block Cooper and Vat Maker.	15 Oct. 1852	- - 2d Foreman of Coopers.	- - -	- - -	- - H. G. Harlowe was specially recommended by Captain Superintendent the Hon. R. S. Dundas.
* (Signed R. S. D.)	- - Block Cooper.	„ „ „	- - ditto - -	Thomas S. Longhurst.	2 Nov. 1852	
George Wilkins -	- ditto -	„ „ „	- - ditto - -			
James Abbitt -	- - Leading man of Labourers.	15 Oct. 1852	- Leading man of Stores, 2d Class, vice Arthur, promoted.			
John Killman -	- - Ditto of extra Labourers.	„ „ „	- - ditto - -	Gordon Elder	2 Nov. 1852	—
* (Signed R. S. D.)	Engine-keeper	„ „ „	- - ditto - -			

* The officers of the Yard having submitted the names of three persons for each vacancy, according to the usual practice, the Captain Superintendent, after investigating their merits, reduced the number to two, and forwarded them for their Lordships' selection to fill the vacancies respectively.

E. J. P Pearn, Master Attendant.
John Breaks, Storekeeper.

G. W. Martin, Captain Superintendent.

A RETURN of the Names of all Officers, Men, Apprentices, and Boys ordered to be Entered and Advanced in this Yard between the 1st March and 31st December 1852, specifying by what Authority, with their several Stations and Ages, the Date of their respective Entries, and showing, in cases of Non-entry, whether owing to Rejection or Non-appearance.

NAME.	STATION.	AGE.	Date of Entry.	PROMOTED		Date of Promotion.	AUTHORITY.	REMARKS.
				From	To			
Dr. Wm. Gunn	Surgeon		7 June 1852				A. O. 7 June 1852	Vice Brown, deceased.
W. B. Pembrooke	Clerk	32		3d Class	2d Class	17 Dec. 1852	„ 17 Dec. „	„ Pearce, superannuated.
Fredk. Armstrong	ditto	32		Extra Clerk	3d ditto	„ „ „	„ „ „	„ Pembroke, promoted.
John Buswell	Extra ditto	31	23 Nov. 1852				„ 23 Nov. „	„ C. H. Pinhorn, removed to Royal Clarence Yard.
Wm. Miller	ditto	17	1 Jan. 1853				„ 17 Dec. „	„ Armstrong, removed to Establishment.
Lieut. Wentworth	Agent for Transports.						„ 16 Dec. „	Had not joined on 31 December.
C. J. Lewis	Foreman of Coopers	49		2d Foreman	1st Foreman	2 Nov. 1852	„ 2 Nov. „	Vice M'Kenzie, superannuated.
Thos. S. Longhurst	Block Cooper	46		Block Cooper	2d ditto		„ „ „	„ Lewis, promoted, (reported by the officers as being unfit for this situation.)
John Arthur	Leading man of stores.	40		2d Class leading man of stores.	1st Class leading man.		„ „ „	„ James Curtis, superannuated.
Gordon Elder	Labourer and extra baker.	40		Labourer	2d Class ditto		„ „ „	„ John Arthur, promoted to first class.
John Canty	Cooper	24	19 July 1852				„ 15 July „	An apprentice, served his time in the yard.
Samuel Jeffery	ditto	23					„ „ „	- - ditto.
Henry Davis	ditto	23	5 Dec. „				„ 23 Nov. „	- - ditto.
Thomas Sturges	ditto	23	11 „ „				„ „ „	- - ditto.
Ventris Holloway	Miller	25	8 Mar. 1852				C. V. O. 1 Mar. „	Vice Emery, promoted to Devonport.
John King	ditto	36		Miller	Senior or leading man of millers.	29 June 1852	A. O. 29 June „	„ Carpenter, superannuated.
Wm. Henson	ditto	33	14 July „				Captain Superintendent, 14 July 1852	„ King, promoted.
Wm. Amey	ditto	32	17 Aug. „				A. O. 14 Aug. 1852	„ Henson, removed, to be borne as a hired miller, per A. O., 5 August 1852. This man (Amey) had previously been rejected as unfit for the service by the surgeon.
John Jones	Strap mender	45		Strap mender	Leading man of labourers.	11 August 1852	„ 11 „ „	„ Owen, superannuated.
Wm. Martin	Dispensary Assistant.	26	25 Sept. „				„ 21 Sept. „	A new situation.
Js. Pritchard	Tailor	38	4 Oct. „				„ 28 „ „	Vice Thomas, discharged.
John Hewson	Labourer	21	25 Aug. „				„ 24 Aug. „	—
John Hickley	Labourer						„ 11 Aug. „	Declined.
Wm. Drage	Messenger to Clerk of Works.						„ 21 May „	- ditto.
Geo. Wright	ditto						„ 30 July „	- ditto.
Wm. Akehurst	ditto	19	28 Sept. „				„ 21 Sept. „	Appointment cancelled, being unfit.
Jno. Fussell	ditto	26	2 Nov. „				„ 25 Oct. „	Declined.

Deptford Victualling Yard, 2 May 1853.

G. W. Martin, Captain Superintendent.

E. J. P. Pearn, Master Attendant.
John Breaks, Storekeeper.

Appendix, No. 6.

WOOLWICH.

A RETURN of Persons recommended for Promotion or Advancement between 1 March and 31 December 1852, but who were passed over in their order of Merit.

NAME.	Rank when Recommended.	When Recommended.	For what Recommended.	REMARKS.
John Lacey	Shipwright	11 Nov. 1851, Letter No. 1171, and 2 July 1352.	Leading-man	Hardin, who was recommended at the same time, and had been an acting leading man, was selected on the first occasion; and John Lacey was promoted on 30th September 1852.
John Tiltman	Ditto	19 April 1852, and 2 July 1852	Leading-men	These men were the 1st, 5th, 6th, and 7th of eight who were submitted for selection of four leading men. The 2d, 3d, 4th, and 8th were selected.
S. R. Martin	Ditto	19 April 1852	Leading-men	
Thos. Kemp	Ditto	Ditto	Leading-men	
Richd. Kemp	Ditto	Ditto	Leading-men	
William Stone	Ditto	19 April 1852	Writer to Timber Inspector.	Servitude 30 years 9 months; and G. H. Prowse, shipwright, with servitude 2 years 9 months, was selected.
Samuel Phillips	Rigger	19 April 1852, and 2 Dec. 1852.	Leading-man of Riggers	An "Excellent" man. D. Rahill, 11 years' servitude, selected on first occasion; and J. Davis, 10 years' servitude, selected on second occasion; S. Phillips, 14 years' servitude, and D. Gould, 11 years' servitude, not selected.
Daniel Gould	Ditto	2 Dec. 1852	Ditto	

Woolwich Yard, 26 April 1853.

Henry Eden,
Commodore Superintendent.

The Surveyor of the Navy.

Appendix, No. 7.

Promotion of Workmen in the Metal Mills.

Sir, Chatham Yard, 28 February 1852.

Henry Padwick having been superannuated by their Lordships' order of the 20th inst., thereby causing a vacancy in the 2d class workmen at the Metal Mills, Appendix, No. 7.

I have the honour to submit the names of three deserving workmen, that one may be selected to fill up the vacancy; viz. *See* Letter to their Lordships, 1 March 1852.

Charles Bailey
Charles Brewer
George Brewer
} - - 3d class men.

That one of the following may be promoted to the 3d class; viz.

Thomas Ayres
Robert Norris
Joseph Olds
} - - 4th class men.

That one of the following may be promoted to the 4th class; viz.

John Hillman
William Reidy
James Scrivens
} - - 5th class men.

That one of the following may be promoted to the 5th class; viz.

William Cooper
Samuel Groves
Charles Harvey
} - - 6th class men.

Appendix, No. 7.

And further, I would beg to propose that the vacancy in the 6th class be filled up by bringing up a boy labourer from the yard into the mills, and giving him the position of 1st class boy at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per day, for which I would submit that one of the following be selected; viz.

Thomas O'Brien - - - - -
Josiah Goding - - - - - } - - Boy labourers.
Samuel Ethell - - - - -

There is still a vacancy for a superior leading man in the Mills, in lieu of John Rowland, superannuated by their Lordships' order of 21st ult.; but I am sorry to say, that none of the inferior leading men in the Mills are competent for this position.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Alexander Lawrie*,
Chief Engineer.

The Captain Superintendent,
&c. &c. &c.

P.S.—Edward Rowland was reduced by their Lordships' order of the 9th December last, and his duty has been performed by Joseph Frankiss, who is found to be quite equal to that position, and I would submit that he be confirmed as leading man in lieu of Edward Rowland.

(signed) *Alexander Lawrie*,
Chief Engineer.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SURVEYOR OF THE NAVY.

Admiralty, 1 April 1853.

WITH reference to the notation in the remark column of the Return No. 29, of the number of workmen borne, which states that a leading man of the 2d class in the Metal Mills, is acting as 1st class leading man,

The Captain Superintendent at Chatham is requested to report the name, age, and servitude of the man in question, and whether he is in all respects qualified to fill the situation in which he is now acting.

(signed) *B. W. Walker.*

Peter Richards,
Captain Superintendent, Chatham.

ACTING First Class Superior Leading Man at Metal Mills.

Sir, Chatham Yard, 2 April 1853.

1. IN obedience to your minute of this date, on the Surveyor's letter of yesterday, we have the honour to report that Joseph Ridgway, leading man of the second class in the Metal Mills, now acting as first-class leading man, is 54 years of age; was entered at Portsmouth 26th September 1814, and made a second-class leading man at the Metal Mills here 1st April 1847; he has been acting first-class leading man from 5th April 1852.

2. The chief engineer states in his letter, dated 28th February 1852, that "there is still a vacancy for a superior leading man in the Mills in lieu of John Rowland, superannuated by their Lordships' order of the 21st ultimo; but, I am sorry to say, that none of the inferior leading men in the Mills are competent for this position."

3. We beg further to state that when Joseph Ridgway was employed as second-class leading man, having a gang of 10 men under him, he was barely competent for that duty; and more difficulty was experienced in getting the same daily produce from him and his gang than from either of the other two second-class leading men with their gangs, containing the same number of workmen.

4. The duty of the first-class superior leading man in the Metal Mills consists in a constant and general superintendence of the workmen; he should be capable of taking the whole charge of the Metal Mills in the absence of the conductor, and, in the event of anything causing a vacancy as conductor, he ought to be able to fill that position.

5. Joseph Ridgway, now acting as first-class leading man, is not equal to the command of a large body of men; he has little knowledge of the important process of refining, nor is he intimately acquainted with the nature and mixture of metals: all of which are essential in his position. The want of such qualifications renders him unfit for first-class superior leading man, and totally unequal to the more responsible position of conductor of metal mills, for which the person who holds the position of superior leading man ought to be well qualified.

We are, &c.
(signed) *John Miller*, Storekeeper.
Alexander Lawrie, Chief Engineer.

The Captain Superintendent.

(No. 45.) Appendix, No. 7.

Chatham Yard, 3 April 1853.

FORWARDED for the information of the Surveyor of the Navy, in reply to his minute of the 1st instant, observing, with reference to the second paragraph of the officers' letter, that, in consequence of the chief engineer's letter, therein referred to, I submitted to their Lordships, on the 1st March 1852, "an entry from private trade is recommended for this vacancy, neither of the inferior leading men being competent for such a position." Ridgway was one of these men. His appointment as first-class acting leading man followed on the 5th of April.

On the 8th of that month a confidential representation of his unfitness was submitted, but the appointment was ordered to go forward. No authorised recommendation in favour of Ridgway was forwarded from this yard.

(signed) *Peter Richards,*
Captain Superintendent.

THE CAPTAIN-SUPERINTENDENT at *Chatham.*

Admiralty, 7 April 1853.

WITH reference to your communication of the 2d instant, reporting the vacancy for a first-class leading man at the Metal Mills, I am to signify their Lordships' directions to you to order Joseph Ridgway, second-class leading man, who has been acting as first-class, and who is not competent to fulfil the duties, to fall back to be a second-class leading man; and you are to take steps to procure a competent person from the private trade for first-class leading man at the Metal Mills.

By command of their Lordships,

(signed) *R. Osborne.*

Peter Richards, Captain Superintendent.

Appendix, No. 8.

MONTHLY.

DEVONPORT YARD, 1st April 1852.

A LIST of the Vacancies in the Devonport Yard, prepared per Admiralty Order 16 May 1836. Appendix, No. 8.

DESCRIPTION.	Number.	REMARKS.
Shipwrights, leading men - -	3	
Ditto workmen - -	13	
Ditto apprentices - -	24	
Caulker's - ditto - -	4	Two men over establishment.
Oakum boy - - - -	1	
Joiners - - - - -	7	- - A vacancy not to be filled. Admiralty Order, 22 November 1850.
Painter, 2d class - - -	1	
Sawyers - - - - -	19	- - Wanted to cut the materials for the St. Jean d'Acre; labourers are so employed at present.
Day labourers - - - -	2	
Smith hammerman - - -	2	
Ditto apprentice - - -	2	
Workmen at saw mills - -	2	Not wanted.
Riggers - - - - -	3	Two ditto.
Ditto seamen - - - -	1	
Sailmaker - - - - -	1	- - Not to be filled. Admiralty Order, 11 June 1851.
House boys - - - -	2	
Women twine spinners - -	2	Not wanted.
Policemen - - - - -	5	
Extra house boys - - -	3	

John E. Mills, Master Attendant.
B. Edye, Master Shipwright.
D. Dent, Storekeeper.

Examined, *W. T.*

Commodore Superintendent, for the
"Surveyor of the Navy."

Appendix, No. 9.

A RETURN showing the WAGES EXPENDITURE in HER MAJESTY'S DOCKYARDS and VICTUALLING YARDS, during the several Months of the Year 1852; and showing also the Proportion Expended to the Sum Voted (for each Yard) during such Months.

YARDS.	1851–52.		1852–53.																			
	1852.																					
	JANUARY.*		FEBRUARY.		MARCH.		APRIL.		MAY.		JUNE.		JULY.		AUGUST.		SEPTEMBER.		OCTOBER.		NOVEMBER.		DECEMBER.	
	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.	Expenditure.	† Vote.
DOCKYARDS:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Deptford -	2,635	2,860	2,169	2,288	2,268	2,288	2,240	2,248	2,827	2,810	2,182	2,248	2,693	2,810	2,159	2,248	2,068	2,248	2,606	2,810	2,162	2,248	2,434	2,248
Woolwich -	9,169	9,375	6,994	7,500	7,086	7,500	8,054	7,344	8,615	9,180	6,651	7,344	8,984	9,180	6,801	7,344	6,681	7,344	9,271	9,180	7,296	7,344	7,120	7,344
Chatham -	8,643	8,970	6,945	7,176	6,933	7,176	6,864	7,096	8,580	8,870	6,739	7, 0 96	8,360	8,870	6,602	7,096	6,657	7,096	8,436	8,870	6,846	7,096	6,945	7,096
Sheerness -	5,196	5,610	4,168	4,488	4,179	4,488	4,159	4,448	5,222	5,560	4,143	4,448	5,155	5,560	4,094	4,448	4,068	4,448	5,087	5,560	4,106	4,448	4,240	4,448
Portsmouth -	15,218	15,970	12,049	12,776	12,245	12,776	12,551	12,676	15,952	15,845	12,746	12,676	15,537	15,845	12,726	12,676	12,898	12,676	16,154	15,845	13,051	12,676	12,526	12,676
Plymouth -	10,973	11,765	8,679	9,412	8,749	9,412	8,737	9,212	11,248	11,515	8,767	9,212	10,892	11,515	8,663	9,212	8,745	9,212	11,188	11,515	9,014	9,212	8,992	9,212
Pembroke -	4,531	4,695	3,627	3,756	3,934	3,756	3,624	3,760	4,634	4,700	3,924	3,760	4,777	4,700	3,950	3,760	3,914	3,760	4,974	4,700	3,631	3,760	3,821	3,760
VICTUALLING YARDS:																								
Deptford -	2,017‡	1,690	1,213	1,352	1,308	1,352	2,199‡	1,595	1,200	1,276	1,194	1,276	2,139‡	1,595	1,195	1,276	1,202	1,276	2,391‡	1,595	1,187	1,276	1,456	1,595
Royal Clarence	660	745	504	596	509	596	650	610	601	488	523	488	637	610	531	488	522	488	605	610	466	488	539	610
Royal William	393	476	459	476	622	595	376	460	532	460	636	575	406	460	443	460	631	575	483	460	440	460	534	575

* *Note.*—The Proportion of Votes and Expenditure varies according to the number of Weekly Payments in each Month. † These Columns were written with Red Ink in the Original.

‡ The Expenditure for the first month in each Quarter at Deptford, exceeds the proportion of the Vote in consequence of the Quarterly Claims for the Police being paid in those months.

Admiralty,
29 April 1853.

J. T. Briggs,
Accountant-general of the Navy.

Appendix, No. 10.

NUMBER of ORIGINAL ENTRIES made in the several DOCKYARDS in the undermentioned Years. Appendix, No. 10.

	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.
Shipwrights	93	133	17	4	92
Superannuations *	171	135	41	62	62
Other Artificers, Labourers, Riggers, and Seamen Riggers	548	453	565	356	643
Superannuations *	333	308	65	85	50
	641	586	582	360	735
Deduct Superannuations *	504	443	106	147	112
	137	143	476	213	623
Shipwright Apprentices	99	65	53	41	10 (*a*)

(*a*) No apprentices to be entered in 1852, per Admiralty Order, 22 November 1851.
* These lines were written with Red Ink in the original.

Somerset House, 30 April 1853. *B. W. Walker*, Surveyor.

Appendix, No. 11.

Sir, Admiralty, 5 April 1852. Appendix, No. 11.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to direct you to order Captain Warden, of the "Retribution," to receive on board Mr. Stafford, and to convey him to Devonport, on the 10th instant, and afterwards to return with him to Spithead.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Stafford.*

Admiral Sir Thomas Briggs,
Portsmouth.

Sir, Admiralty 19 June 1852.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that Mr. Stafford, the Secretary of this Department, will visit Devonport in Her Majesty's steamer "Black Eagle," and that she will remain in Hamoaze.

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. H. Hay,*
Pro Secy.

Admiral Sir J. A. Ommanney, K.C.B.,
&c. &c. &c., Devonport.

Sir, Admiralty, 19 June 1852.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to signify their direction to you, to order the "Black Eagle" to repair forthwith to Portsmouth.

I am, &c.
(signed) *A. Stafford.*

Commodore Eden,
Woolwich.

A RETURN of the Expense of COALS used on Board Her Majesty's Steam Vessel "Black Eagle," in each Trip from *Woolwich* to *Devonport* and back, in the year 1852.

	Tons.	£.	*s.*	*d.*
19th to 25th June	96	67	4	–
16th to 23d July	81	58	14	6
£.		125	18	6

Admiralty, 11 May 1853.

J. R. Clark, for Storekeeper-General.

Appendix, No. 11.

A RETURN of the Expense of COALS used on board Her Majesty's Steam Vessel "Retribution," in each Trip from *Portsmouth* to *Devonport* and back, in the year 1852.

	Tons.	*cwts.*	*qrs.*	£.	*s.*	*d.*
10th to 16th April	74	8	0	49	5	9
9th and 10th May	15	8	0	10	4	–
15th to 19th July	84	5	0	57	4	–
			£.	116	13	9

Admiralty, 11 May 1853.

J. R. Clark, for Storekeeper-General.

On Board "Retribution."

Went on Board Saturday morning at 10 A. M., Portsmouth.
Disembarked Monday at noon.
Embarked Thursday morning; disembarked Friday.

Mr. Grant.
Mr. Stafford.
Mr. Naylor.
— Groves, first voyage.

Mr. Grant did not reimbark.

No. 1.

Mr. *Stafford*'s Expenses to *Portsmouth* and *Devonport*.

		£.	*s.*	*d.*
7 April 1852	Cabs to Waterloo Station, 3 *s.*; "Times" papers, 1 *s.*	–	4	–
	Four First Class Tickets to Portsmouth, at 18 *s.*	3	12	–
	One Second Class Ticket to Portsmouth, at 13 *s.* 6 *d.*	–	13	6
	Two Flys to the George Hotel	–	4	–
	Bradshaw's Guide, 6 *d.*; Postage Stamps, 6 *s.*	–	6	6
10 „ „	Hotel Porter with Messages	–	9	–
	Hotel Expenses at Portsmouth	21	–	–
11 „ „	Boat's crew to "Retribution"	–	5	–
	Hotel expenses at Portland	1	5	–
12 „ „	Stewards on board "Retribution"	–	12	6
	Boat's crew ditto – ditto – at Devonport	–	5	–
	Stationery, 3 *s.* 6 *d.*; "Times" papers, 1 *s.*	–	4	6
15 „ „	Expenses at Royal Hotel, Devonport	58	16	–
	Fly to Mount Wise and Plymouth station, Mr. Grant	–	5	–
	One 1st class ticket to London – – – – ditto	3	3	–
	Cab to Regent-street – – – – – – – ditto	–	3	6
16 „ „	Cab to Waterloo station – – – – – – – ditto	–	2	–
	One 1st class ticket to Portsmouth – ditto	–	18	–
	Fly to the Quebec hotel – – – – – – – ditto	–	2	–
	Boat to and from "Retribution"	–	2	6
18 „ „	Porters with messages at Portsmouth	–	4	–
	Expenses at the Quebec hotel	23	18	6
	Flys to the railway station	–	5	–
	Three 1st class tickets to London, at 18 *s.*	2	14	–
	One 2d – ditto – – – ditto at 13 *s.* 6 *d.*	–	13	6
	Cabs to Admiralty	–	4	–
	Cash, Mr. Grant	3	15	–
	£.	124	7	–

22 April. Settled.
Jas. Groves.

Appendix, No. 11.

No 2.

EXPENSES of a Journey with the Secretary to *Portsmouth*, and *Plymouth*, and back, on the 19th June to the 25th, 1852.

		£.	s.	d.
19 June 1852 -	Cab to the station - - - - - - - -	-	2	6
	Three 1st class to Portsmouth - - - - -	2	14	-
	One 2d class - - ditto - - - - - -	-	13	6
	Fly from the station - - - - - - - -	-	2	6
	Queen's heads - - - - - - - - -	-	2	6
20 „ „ -	Shore boat to Spithead and back - - - - -	-	5	-
	Porterage - - - - - - - - - -	-	5	-
	Hotel expenses at Portsmouth - - - - -	4	6	10
22 „ „ -	Stationery at Devonport - - - - - -	-	3	3
23 „ „ -	Shore boats - - - - - - - - -	-	3	-
	Letters - - - - - - - - - -	-	2	-
	Hotel expenses, Devonport - - - - - -	46	15	6
24 „ „ -	Two Flys to the station - - - - - -	-	4	-
	Three 1st class tickets to London - - - - -	9	9	-
	One 2d class - ditto - ditto - - - - -	2	10	6
	Cab to the Admiralty - - - - - - -	-	2	6
	Mr. Grant's expenses - - - - - - -	3	6	-
	£.	73	7	7

J. Giles.

Appendix, No. 12.

5 April 1852. Appendix, No. 12.

CAPTAIN WARDEN, of "Retribution," to be informed that he will convey the Secretary of the Admiralty to Devonport on the 10th instant, and return with him to Spithead.

Aug. Stafford. *H. P.*

Executed,
T. W., 5 April.

Admiralty, 19 June 1852.

INFORM Sir John Ommaney that Mr. Stafford, the Secretary of the Admiralty, will visit Devonport in the "Black Eagle."

She will remain in Hamoaze.

H. P.

Executed,
W. F. E., 19 June.

LETTER to Commodore Eden.

"Black Eagle" to repair forthwith to Portsmouth.

19 June. *Aug. Stafford.*

Executed, 19 June 1852.
R. B.

---

19 June.

COMMODORE EDEN to order the "Black Eagle" to be at Portsmouth on Monday afternoon.

H. P.

Appendix, No. 13.

Enclosure in Letter No. 59, of 1853.

No. 135.

To be delivered to every Person who may be discharged from the Establishment.

Appendix, No. 13.

I HEREBY certify that Mr. George Cotsell, late Master Smith of this establishment, was discharged on the 2d February, and has been paid salary to the inclusive; and further, that he has served in this establishment in the several capacities and for the periods hereinafter stated, viz.:

In what Capacity.	Period in such Capacity.		Whether on Day Pay, or on Salary.
	From.	To.	
As Master Smith - - -	6 October 1852	2 February 1853	Salary.

Mem.—Ordered to return as Master Smith to Chatham Yard, per Admiralty Order, 27 January 1853.

Given under my hand at Portsmouth Dockyard this 3d day of February 1853.

Chatham Yard, 4 May 1853. (signed) *W. C. Edwards*, for Storekeeper.

No. 135.

To be delivered to every Person who may be Discharged from the Establishment.

I HEREBY certify that Mr. William Smale, late acting Master Smith of this establishment, was discharged on the 7th February 1853, and has been paid his salary to the 31st December last inclusive; and further, that he has served in this establishment in the several capacities and for the periods hereinafter stated, viz.:

In what Capacity.	Period in such Capacity.		Whether on Day Pay, or on Salary.
	From.	To.	
Acting Master Smith - -	4 October 1852	7 February 1853	Salary.

Mem.—Ordered to return as Foreman to Woolwich Yard, per Admiralty Order, 27th January 1853.

Given under my hand at Chatham Dockyard, this 8th day of February 1853.

(signed) *C. Rhind*, for Storekeeper, on leave.

To be delivered to every Person who may be Discharged from the Establishment.

I HEREBY certify that Mr. Richard Forbes, late Foreman of Smiths at this establishment, was discharged on the 10th February 1853, and has been paid his salary to the 31st December last inclusive; and further, that he has served in this establishment in the several capacities and for the periods hereinafter stated, viz.:

In what Capacity.	Period in such Capacity.		Whether on Day Pay, or on Salary.
	From.	To.	
Foreman of Smiths - - -	20 October 1852	10 February 1853	Salary.

Given under my hand at Her Majesty's Dockyard Woolwich this 10th day of February 1853.

(signed) *W. Gottlieb,* Storekeeper.

No. 135.

To be delivered to every Person who may be discharged from the Establishment.

I HEREBY certify that Mr. Thomas Bailey, lately Foreman of Smiths of this establishment, was discharged on the 11th February, and has been paid salary to the 31st December inclusive; and further, that he has served in this establishment in the several capacities and for the periods hereinafter stated, viz.:

In what Capacity.	Period in such Capacity.		Whether on Day Pay, or on Salary.
	From.	To.	
Smith, Devonport Yard - -	December 1832	30 July 1839	Day Pay.
Ditto, Woolwich - - -	31 July 1839	7 April 1843	„
Leading man, ditto - -	8 April 1843	15 February 1847	„
Anchor Fireman, ditto, ditto -	16 February 1847	15 October 1852	„
Foreman of Smiths, Sheerness -	16 October 1852	11 February 1853	Salary.

Removed to Woolwich Yard, as foreman of smiths, per Admiralty Order, 31 January 1853.

Given under my hand at Sheerness Yard this 12th day of February 1853.

(signed) *Robert Lawes,* Storekeeper.

Appendix, No. 14.

Appendix, No. 14.

THE Secretary of the Admiralty presents his compliments to Lord Seymour, and in return to his Lordship's order of this date, as Chairman of the Select Committee on Dock Yard Appointments, for the original Minute of the 19th April 1852, for the Circulars to the several dock yards, directing communications to be made direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty, instead of through the Surveyor of the Navy to be laid before the Committee,

The Secretary of the Admiralty begs to acquaint Lord Seymour that the original Minute in question cannot be found, and to refer his Lordship to a copy of the inquiries which have been made this morning of the several gentlemen in this office through whose hands the missing document appears to have passed.

The Secretary of the Admiralty begs likewise to enclose, for the information of the Committee, an exact extract from the General Minute Book relating to the Circular of the 19th April 1852.

Admiralty, 6 May 1853.

"6th May.

"Mr. *Barrow.*—Have you this Minute?—The Minute of the 19th April 18 Circular alluded to, has not been received in the Record Department.

(signed) "*John Barrow.*"

"Mr. *Clifton.*—On what day was this Minute executed?—On the 19th of April 1852, and the Minute was then sent to the precis.

(signed) "*Waller Clifton.*'

"Mr. *Houghton.*—Does any entry of this Minute appear in the Board Minute Book or in the General Minute Book?—It appears in the General Book on the 20th April 1852.

(signed) "*N. Houghton.*"

"Mr. *Houghton.*—Can you say at this period of time what you did with the Minute afterwards?—I have no recollection.

(signed) "*N. Houghton.*"

"Mr. *Houghton.*—What do you generally do with the Minutes after they have been entered by you?—The Board Minutes come to me generally direct from the Board-room, and after being entered are sent to the chief clerk for distribution in the office.

"The General Minutes generally come to me after their execution in the several departments, and when I have abstracted their contents I forward them altogether in a box to the Record Office.

"The above is the rule; but there are occasionally exceptions, such as a requisition from a department to return to them a paper when entered, &c.

(signed) "*N. Houghton.*"

VACANCIES, PROMOTIONS, &c. in the Yards to be reported direct to Secretary.

Admiralty, Tuesday, 20 April 1852.

ACQUAINT the Surveyor that their Lordships' Order of the 26th September 1849 (respecting the superintendents reporting all vacancies, promotions or changes among the workmen, officers, &c. of the yard, through his department) is to be considered as cancelled, as my Lords desire that the system adopted previous should be reverted to. This will not interfere with the Circular of 29th November 1847.

Appendix, No. 15.

A RETURN of the Numbers of MEN Employed in the different DOCKYARDS in the Years 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, and 1851. Appendix, No.

1st January - -	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.
Borne on Established List - - -	9,276	9,005	8,746	9,438	9,478
Hired List - -	2,935	3,622	1,903	573 Ropemakers.	229 Ropemakers.
TOTAL - -	12,211	12,627	10,649	10,011	9,707

WAGES, DOCKYARDS.

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.	
1846–47 - - - - - - -	644,413	–	–	
1851–52 - - - - - - -	505,308	–	–	
Less - - £.	139,105	–	–	Difference.

Admiralty, 16 May 1853.

B. W. Walker,
Surveyor.

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[*N. B.*—In this Index the *Numerals* following *Rep.* refer to the Page of the Report; the *Figures* following the Names of the Witnesses refer to the Questions of the Evidence; and those following *App.* to the Page of the Appendix.]

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Amedroz, Henry Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Evidence relative to the appointment of Joseph Ridgway as acting first class man in the metal mills at Chatham; the circumstance of its being acting would imply that it was a probationary appointment, 1493–1512.

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See also *Board of Admiralty. Hamilton, Captain. Patronage. Political Influence*, 1. *Probationary Appointments. Promotions. Secretary to the Admiralty. Surveyor of the Navy*, 1.

Apprentices. Necessity for some vacancies in the dockyards being left to be filled up by apprentices coming out of their time; filling up all the vacancies greatly inconveniences the department, by leaving no space for the apprentices to occupy, *Sir B. Walker* 172, 173—— With respect to the Surveyor's submission that vacancies should be kept in Woolwich Dockyard for shipwrights' apprentices under instruction at the central school, witness proposed that two vacancies should be kept at Woolwich, and a proportionate number at other yards, *Stafford* 1357–1363——Manner in which the apprentices of shipwrights in the Deptford yard are entered as shipwrights; there is no selection or recommendation of apprentices; they come in their routine after they have served their time, *Martin* 1958–1969——Particulars as to the examination and selection of boys for shipwrights' apprentices; all entries take place in January; advantage of this arrangement; order of the Board of Admiralty that there should be no entry of apprentices at Chatham during the year 1852, *Richards* 2133–2150——Number of shipwrights' apprentices at Chatham out of their time in 1852, *ib.* 2163–2166——Evidence relative to seven boys being sent down to Chatham in December 1852, for examination as shipwrights' apprentices, *Richards* 2173–2182; *Stafford* 4227–4257——Remarks with respect to the selection of apprentices at Devonport; impossibility of not giving attention to men of merit on behalf of their sons, *Seymour* 2494–2498.

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Chatham Election. Part taken by witness during the Chatham election on behalf of Sir F. Smith; nature of the meetings at which witness attended, *Cotsell* 982-1000——Circumstances which induced witness to take part in the Chatham election in support of Sir F. Smith, *ib.* 1045-1048——Witness never saw Mr. Cotsell engaged in the canvass of electors at Chatham, *Scott* 1061, 1062——Observations relative to Mr. Stafford's visit to Chatham Dockyard on 26 June 1852 in company with Sir Frederic Smith,

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CIRCULAR OF 1849.

1. *Evidence as to the Issue of the Circular of* 1849; *Approval of this Circular.*
2. *Particulars relative to the Circular of* 19 *April* 1852, *issued by Mr. Stafford, cancelling the Circular of* 1849; *Circumstances and Authority under which this took place.*
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1. *Evidence as to the Issue of the Circular of* 1849; *Approval of this Circular:*

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CIRCULAR OF 1849—*continued.*

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2. *Particulars relative to the Circular of* 19 *April* 1852, *issued by Mr. Stafford, cancelling the Circular of* 1849; *Circumstances and Authority under which this took place:*

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Circular of 1849—*continued.*

2. *Particulars relative to the Circular of* 19 *April* 1852, *&c.*—continued.

The circular of 1849 not being contained in the Board book, but in the general minute book, witness concluded that he had power to cancel that circular without bringing it before the Board, *Stafford* 1232-1239. 4159-4172——The circular of 1849 applied to the transfer of the control to the Surveyor, and it was to that alone that the circular of 1852 referred; remarks as to how that transfer of control took place; opinion of Sir James Graham as to the official correctness of the course adopted, *ib.* 1239——Previous to the issuing of the circular of April 1852, cancelling that of 1849, witness was consulted by Mr. Stafford, and gave his opinion that no change was desirable in the system, and that it would be better not to cancel the circular of 1849, *Briggs* 1561-1566——The circular of the 19 April was not looked upon as an important circular by the Secretary, although the Surveyor of the Navy remonstrated against such a change being made by the abrogation of the order of 1849, *Grant* 1679-1694——At the time of witness cancelling the circular of 1849 he did not attach any importance to it; with witness's present experience he would not have cancelled it without bringing it before the Board, *Stafford* 1890-1897——Opinion that cancelling the circular of 1849, which gave the Surveyor of the Navy the means of controlling the appointments, was injurious to the service of the dockyards, *Richards* 1933-1936——With respect to the circular of 2 April 1852, issued by Mr. Stafford, cancelling the order of September 1849, witness was cognisant of it, but objected to interfere from want of experience, *Duke of Northumberland* 3100-3118——Grounds on which witness sanctioned the reversal of the system that had existed in the Admiralty for many years, by the cancelling of the circular of 1849; witness relied upon the statement of Mr. Stafford, that he had complete power to cancel that circular, which was only one of a former secretary, *ib.* 3140-3158. 3232.

The original minute of 1849 is initialed by Sir Francis Baring; the circular of 19 April 1852 was not approved by witness nor any other Lord, *Duke of Northumberland* 3222-3224——Witness was aware of the intention of Mr. Stafford to cancel the circular of 1849, but was not aware of the circular of 19 April having been issued until that of the 26 April came before the Board, *ib.* 3225-3232——Although witness did not sanction the issuing of the minute of the 19 April, he saw no impropriety in its being issued, *ib.* 3246-3251——Witness never heard of the circular of 19 April 1852 until that of the 26 April came before the Board; witness did not attach any importance to the circular, or the change made by it in the system of promotions, *Sir T. Herbert* 3696-3701. 3732-3734——Particulars relative to the preparation of the circular of the 19 April 1852 in witness's department; letter forwarded to the Surveyor of the Navy acquainting him therewith, *Pennell* 3915-3988——Witness did not consult any one at the Admiralty, or any member of the Government, with respect to issuing the circular of 19 April; it was entirely from witness's own notion, wishing to alter the system of promotion, *Stafford* 4003-4007. 4261-4263. 4266-4274——In cancelling the circular of 1849, witness does not consider that he injured the efficiency of the Surveyor in assisting him to keep down the expenditure, *ib.* 4094-4106——Further evidence as to the grounds on which witness cancelled the circular of 1849, *ib.* 4117-4152. 4497-4548.

3. *Papers laid before the Committee:*

Copy of a circular sent to the superintendents of the dockyards, dated 26 September 1849, directing the transmission of all reports and recommendations to the Surveyor's department, instead of to the Admiralty direct, *App.* 360——Letter from Mr. Stafford to the superintendents of dockyards, dated 19 April 1852, cancelling the circular of 1849, *ib.*——Minute of the Admiralty, dated 20 April 1852, relative to the cancelling of the circular of 1849, *ib.* 388.

See also *Circular of* 1852. *Parker, Admiral. Recommendations of Superintendents. Surveyor of the Navy,* 1.

Circular of 1852. Observations of the Committee with respect to the issue of the circular of 26 April 1852, to the effect that no imputation was intended to be cast upon the Surveyor by the cancelling of the circular of 1849; this circular was read at the Board of Admiralty, *Rep.* x——With reference to the circular of 26 April 1852, it was issued entirely in consequence of the letter of resignation of the Surveyor; when this circular was under consideration at the Board of Admiralty, Sir B. Walker's resignation must have been also made the subject of consideration, *Sir H. Parker* 361-370. 376——Remarks as to the circular issued on 26 April 1852, referring to a previous circular which had been issued by the Secretary without being brought before the Board, *Milne* 548-552——The circular of 26 April seemed to have been agreed to before it was brought to the Board, and no discussion was raised upon it, *ib.* 564, 565. 645-647——The circular of 26 April 1852 gives a confirmation of the previous circular of 19 April, *ib.* 632-635——Particulars relative to the interview which took place between Sir B. Walker, Admiral Parker, and witness on 26 April, when the circular of that date was agreed to as removing all personal imputation from Sir B. Walker, which was never intended to be cast upon him by the circular of the 19 April, *Stafford* 1239. 1258-1260.

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Circular of 1852—*continued.*

Witness was present when the circular of 26 April was passed at a full Board; no discussion took place as to the misconstruction of the previous circular, nor was any reference made to the tendered resignation of the Surveyor of the Navy, *Briggs* 1567-1575——Circumstances under which the circular of 26 April 1852 was prepared and issued for the satisfaction of Sir B. Walker, as removing all slur which he considered cast upon his character by the circular of 19 April, *Duke of Northumberland* 3135-3139——No interview ever took place between the Duke of Northumberland, Admiral Parker, and witness upon the subject of the circular of 26 April, when witness expressed himself quite satisfied, *Sir B. Walker* 4398-4417——Witness expressed himself to Admiral Parker as satisfied with the circular of 26 April, so far as it removed the imputation on his character, but as regards the interests of the public service, he was not satisfied, *ib.* 4414-4417——Letter from Mr. Stafford to the superintendents of dockyards, dated 26 April 1852, in explanation of the letter of 19 April, cancelling the circular of 1849, *App.* 360——Copy of circular sent to the superintendents of the dockyards, dated 26 April 1852, removing any misconstruction which might arise from the issue of the circular of 19 April, *ib.* 361.

Clerks to the Admiralty. At one time all the clerks of the Admiralty were considered clerks to the Secretary, and were appointed by him; this was during the period that Mr. Croker was secretary, *Stafford* 4350, 4351. 4360-4363.

See also *Chief Clerk to the Admiralty.*

Collings, Mr. Thomas. Remarks as to a letter received by witness from Mr. Thomas Collings, of the Accountant-general's department, with respect to his intercession with the Surveyor of the Navy on behalf of witness's promotion to Portsmouth, *Cotsell* 1118-1120. 1123-1126——Witness had been led to believe, by Mr. Collings, that the Surveyor was favourable to witness's removal from Chatham to Portsmouth; letters from Mr. Collings containing these expressions, *ib.* 1426-1442——Reference to the conversations which have passed between witness and Mr. Collings, relative to the transfer of Mr. Cotsell from Chatham to Portsmouth; at that time, witness saw no objection to his being so transferred, *Sir B. Walker* 1445-1458.

Committee of Revision. Particulars relative to the committee of the Lords of the Admiralty, appointed in 1848 to inquire into the dockyards; proceedings of the committee in looking into the details of the arrangements of the respective yards, *Milne* 566-568——Opinion of the committee of the Admiralty in favour of the system of promotions in the dockyards under the circular of 1847; the circular of 1849 was merely a confirmation of a part of the system that was then in force, *ib.* 569-572——Recommendations made by the committee of revision in 1848; this committee only made a private report to the Admiralty, *Sir B. Parker* 883-885.

Compulsory Retirements. Observations relative to the compulsory retirement of Mr. Roberts, the master shipwright at Devonport, upon superannuation; this was a great hardship, *Beer* 4839-4848.

Correspondence. Observations with respect to the motion of Admiral Berkeley, on 23 November 1852, for copies of correspondence between the Admiralty and the Surveyor on the subject of promotions in the dockyards, and the tendered resignation of the Surveyor; reply of Mr. Stafford that there was no such correspondence, *Sir B. Walker* 4; *Stafford* 1239-1257——Letter written by witness to the Board, and interview held with Mr. Stafford upon the subject of Admiral Berkeley's motion, and the reply of Mr. Stafford, *Sir B. Walker* 4. 193-198——Letter received by witness from the Admiralty, dated 27 November 1852, directing him to furnish copies of his letters referred to, as they were not to be found in the record office; preparation of copies of the letters of 21 April and 10 May 1852, in consequence of that letter, *ib.* 4-6. 190-192——Circumstances under which witness was induced by Mr. Stafford not to send the copies of the letters called for by the Board's letter of 27 November 1852, *ib.* 6-7. 4389-4398. 4868——On witness receiving the letter from Mr. Stafford, of 22 November, respecting Admiral Berkeley's motion, witness waited upon him, and stated that Admiral Berkeley knew of his having tendered his resignation, and of his having written to the Duke of Northumberland; and witness referred him to copies of the letters in Whitehall, *ib.* 215-224——Interview witness had with Mr. Stafford on 29 November, at which he requested witness not to furnish copies of his letters of 21 April and 10 May 1852, as ordered by the Board's letter of 27 November, as it was useless taking up the matter again; witness was in error in complying with that request, but it was done from a feeling that the business should not go further, *ib.* 240-257. 4389-4398.

Explanation with respect to the production of the copies of the letters of 21 April and 10 May 1852 by witness, and their publication by order of the House of 14 March 1853, *Sir B. Walker* 250-253——Witness never had any conversation with Mr. Stafford upon the subject of Admiral Berkeley's motion for correspondence, and Mr. Stafford's reply that there was none, *Sir H. Parker* 445-447——Circumstances under which witness used his influence with Sir B. Walker to induce him to withhold the copies of the letters called for by the Board; witness considered that as some explanation had taken place, the whole question

Report, 1852-53—*continued*.

Correspondence—continued.

question was done with, *Milne* 622-628. 641-644. 649——Remarks relative to witness's letter to Mr. Stafford of 22d November, in answer to his respecting the correspondence called for by Admiral Berkeley, *Sir B. Walker* 657-661——Witness never pressed Sir B. Walker to suppress the correspondence; circumstances under which witness requested Captain Milne to see Sir B. Walker upon the subject, *Stafford* 1239-1243. 1247——Letter from Mr. Stafford to witness, dated 28 November 1852, upon the subject of the motion of Admiral Berkeley, for correspondence between the Surveyor and the Admiralty, *Sir B. Walker* 1425.

Inquiries instituted by witness at the record office of the Admiralty on 22 November, for any correspondence that had taken place with the Surveyor of the Navy; no such papers were to be found in the office; it is not an uncommon occurrence for papers inquired for to be missing, *Grant* 1628-1637——Witness was present at an interview between Mr. Stafford and Sir B. Walker, on 29 November, when Sir B. Walker handed what appeared to be a draft of a letter to Mr. Stafford, and said he would take it to Somerset House, and have it written in the regular course, *ib.* 1638-1645——On the motion that was made in the House of Commons, for correspondence coming before the Board of Admiralty, it created great surprise, as no correspondence upon the subject of the Surveyor's resignation was known to exist, *Duke of Northumberland* 3213-3221——Witness was present at the Board, on 22 or 23 November, when allusion was made to the correspondence between the Surveyor and the Admiralty; none of the members seemed aware of the existence of such papers; neither Admiral Parker nor Mr. Stafford intimated that there had been such a correspondence, *Sir T. Herbert* 3754-3756——Interview witness had with Sir B. Walker, to induce him to withhold the correspondence; witness having stated to the House of Commons that no correspondence existed was desirous, when it was produced by Sir B. Walker, that it should not be presented, *Stafford* 4857-4866——Witness delivered the copies of the correspondence applied for to Mr. Stafford on 29 November; after that interview witness returned to Somerset House and sent the letter which did not refer to the correspondence enclosed; this was after witness saw Captain Milne, who wished him not to send the copy, *Sir B. Walker* 4866, 4867.

Coryton, Colonel John Rawlings. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Colonel Commandant of Marines at Devonport; resides in the barracks, 2324-2326——Circumstances attending Sir George Berkeley and Colonel Berkeley waiting upon witness, and desiring to canvass certain electors in the marine corps; witness saw no impropriety in having men under his command brought to his house to be canvassed; witness denies having taken any part in the canvass, 2327-2339. 2346-2352——Denial that Marsh was promised to be promoted to a corporal if he would vote for General Berkeley, or that he was promoted for thus voting, 2331——Instructions received by witness from the Admiralty with respect to granting leave of absence to the marines under his command for the purpose of voting at the Devonport election, and directing him to report the names of all parties making such applications, 2340, 2341——Communication received by witness from Deputy Adjutant-general Owen, after the Devonport election, as to the list of names of the persons under witness's command who had voted; reply of witness thereto, 2342-2345.

[Second Examination.]—Witness did not canvass any of the voters under his command; he merely introduced them to Sir George Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell when they came to witness's house, 3082-3093.

See also *Devonport Election*, 1.

Cotsell, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Master smith at Chatham; has held the situation seven years, 973-975——Was formerly second foreman of smiths at Portsmouth Yard for about 22 years, 976-981——Part taken by witness during the Chatham election on behalf of Sir F. Smith, 982-1000——Conversation witness had with Mr. Stafford, in reference to witness's promotion from Chatham to Portsmouth; witness's impression from Mr. Stafford's reply was, that he was to have the appointment, 1001-1007——Letters received by witness informing him of the appointment of Mr. Wells as master smith at Portsmouth; interview witness had with Mr. Piers at the Admiralty upon the subject, 1008-1038——Witness denies having stated, that when at the Admiralty he saw Mr. Wells' appointment lying on the table, 1035-1037——Before being appointed to Chatham, witness was two years at Devonport; witness never took any part in the elections at Devonport, 1039, 1040——During witness's service at Portsmouth, he never took any part in the elections, 1041-1044——Circumstances which induced witness to take part in the Chatham election, in support of Sir F. Smith, 1045-1048.

[Second Examination.]—Letter received by witness from Mr, Thomas Collings, of the Accountant-general's department, with respect to his intercession with the Surveyor of the Navy on behalf of witness's promotion to Portsmouth, 1118-1120. 1123-1126——Circumstances under which witness was anxious to obtain the appointment of master smith at Portsmouth, 1120-1122——Denial of the evidence of Mr. Scott, with respect to witness's visit to the Admiralty; witness did not see the appointment of Mr. Wells, nor any other papers on that occasion, 1126-1128.

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Cotsell, George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

[Third Examination.]—Witness had been led to believe, by Mr. Collings, that the Surveyor was favourable to witness's removal from Chatham to Portsmouth; letters from Mr. Collings containing these expressions, 1426-1442——The letter received by witness from Mr. Piers has been destroyed, 1443, 1444.

COTSELL, MR.:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Circumstances under which Mr. Cotsell was appointed Master Smith in Portsmouth Dockyard.*
3. *Objections to the Appointment of Mr. Cotsell.*
4. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

1. *Generally:*

Satisfactory manner in which Mr. Cotsell performed his duty as master smith at Chatham; experience possessed by him in the management of Nasmyth's hammers, *Sir B. Walker* 827-829——Approval of the manner in which Cotsell performed his duties during the short time he was master smith at Portsmouth, *ib.* 901——Memorial of Mr. Cotsell to the Admiralty, of January 1849, relating to a set of tools of his invention; flattering approbation of the Admiralty, *Stafford* 1898-1901——High opinion of Sir Frederic Smith as to the capabilities of Cotsell; recommendation of Cotsell to witness by Sir Frederic, *ib.* 1902-1906—— Desire of witness to have Mr. Cotsell at Portsmouth, as from his efficiency the service would be benefited, *Fincham* 3831. 3834-3841——Letter from James Nasmyth to George Cotsell, dated 2 July 1846, congratulating him on his appointment as master smith at Chatham and testifying to his merits, delivered in and read, *Stafford* 4787.

2. *Circumstances under which Mr. Cotsell was appointed Master Smith in Portsmouth Dockyard:*

Grounds on which Mr. Stafford defends the appointment of Mr. Cotsell as master smith in Portsmouth Dockyard, *Rep.* xii——Previous to the appointment of Mr. Cotsell, witness consulted with Admiral Parker, who remonstrated against his appointment to Portsmouth, and expressed a strong opinion that Wells ought to be appointed, *Stafford* 1705-1734. 1837-1842——When witness mentioned Cotsell's appointment to the First Lord, he made no objection, or witness would have been obliged to cancel it, *ib.* 1719-1725. 1843-1852. 1855-1858——Witness promoted Cotsell as being the man most fit within the service for the place at Portsmouth; witness had no testimonials laid before him with respect to Wells that induced him to believe he had merits equal to Cotsell, *ib.* 1735-1750. 1880-1884——At the time witness appointed Cotsell to Portsmouth, he was not aware that Wells was in possession of the situation; his belief was that the post was unoccupied, as no warrant to Wells had been made out, *ib.* 1751-1789. 1888*-1889——Circumstances which induced witness to appoint Mr. Cotsell to Portsmouth; memorial from Cotsell soliciting the appointment, *ib.* 1806-1822——Witness did not take the opinion of the Surveyor before transferring Cotsell from Chatham to Portsmouth, as witness gathered his opinion from his submission with regard to Wells, *ib.* 1823-1826——Witness consulted Captain Duncombe and Sir T. Herbert with reference to the appointment of Cotsell; notwithstanding the remonstrance of Admiral Parker, they were of opinion that Cotsell's case was a good one, and ought to go forward, *ib.* 1859-1866.

Witness signed the appointment of Mr. Cotsell as a matter of form; the appointment being in Mr. Stafford's department of patronage, witness did not consider himself responsible, *Amedroz* 3794-3798——On the superannuation of Mr. Tyler, and the consequent vacancy of the office of master smith at Portsmouth, witness wrote a private letter to Sir B. Walker, recommending Cotsell for the appointment, *Fincham* 3890-3892——Witness never signed anything with regard to Cotsell, except the warrant for his appointment, *Stafford* 4330——Witness signed the acting warrant of Cotsell early in October 1852; before signing the warrant, the circumstances of the case were brought under witness's knowledge, *Hon. A. Duncombe* 4458-4461——At the time of signing Cotsell's appointment, witness was not aware that Wells was at Portsmouth, as witness was given to understand that he had received no warrant and no official appointment whatever, *ib.* 4469-4487. 4492——Witness was not aware that Sir Frederic Smith had strongly recommended Cotsell, or that it was through political influence that Cotsell's name had been so strongly brought forward by the Secretary, *ib.* 4488-4889.

3. *Objections to the Appointment of Mr. Cotsell:*

When witness found that Cotsell was appointed, he remonstrated with Mr. Stafford, and also by a private letter with the head of the Board, *Sir H. Parker* 457-461——Communication witness had with Admiral Parker on 2 October, on the subject of the removal of Mr. Wells from his position, and the appointment of Cotsell to the office; remarks of Admiral Parker upon the subject of such appointment, *Sir B. Walker* 817-821——Letter written by Admiral Parker to the Duke of Northumberland, pointing out the

Report, 1852–53—*continued.*

Cotsell, Mr.—continued.

3. *Objections to the Appointment of Mr. Cotsell*—continued.

the impropriety of Wells's removal and Cotsell's appointment to Portsmouth, *Sir B. Walker* 819——Under the circular of 1847, the recommendation of Cotsell's promotion should have been forwarded to witness for his opinion; no such opportunity was afforded witness in this case, *ib.* 823–826.

4. *Papers laid before the Committee:*

Copy of the warrant of appointment of George Cotsell as master smith at Portsmouth Yard, *App.* 364——Copy of letter from Mr. G. Cotsell, requesting to remain at Portsmouth as master smith; of his discharge document; of reports or communications respecting his character and abilities from dockyard officers at Portsmouth; of the order or decision of their Lordships in August in reference to Mr. James Wells; and warrant of appointment of Mr. J. Wells as acting master smith of Portsmouth Dockyard, *ib.* 371, 372.

See also *Chatham Dockyard. Collings, Mr. Thos. Memorials. Parker, Admiral. Promotions,* 3. *Wells, Mr.*

Cross, Benjamin. (Analysis of his Evidence.)— Master tailor, and serjeant in the Royal Marines, living at Stonehouse, Devon, 2238–2244——In 1847, witness voted for Sir J. Romilly and Mr. Tufnell, for the borough of Devonport, 2245, 2246——Canvass of witness and other non-commissioned officers and privates of the marines by Colonel Coryton, on behalf of General Berkeley, previous to the last election for Devonport, 2247–2271——Particulars as to the promotion of Marsh, a private in the marines, to corporal, in consequence of his having voted for General Berkeley, 2268. 2271–2276.

D.

Deptford Dockyard. Remarks as to the visit paid to the Deptford Yard by Mr. Stafford, accompanied by Mr. Rolt, the candidate for Greenwich; witness is not aware that any canvassing took place, *Hon. R. S. Dundas* 3649–3653——Communications received by witness from the Admiralty, expressing dissatisfaction at the conduct and manner in which the general business was conducted, *ib.* 3671–3674——Witness never received any letter from the Admiralty as to any political influence being used in the yard, *ib.* 3675——Circumstances under which witness went round Deptford Dockyard with Mr. Rolt, the candidate for Greenwich, *Stafford* 4316–4322——Return of the names of all officers, men, apprentices, and boys recommended for promotion or advancement in this yard between 1 March and 31 December 1852, but who have been passed over in their order of merit, *App.* 377——Return of the names of all officers, men, apprentices, and boys ordered to be entered and advanced in this yard between 1 March and 31 December 1852, specifying by what authority, with their several stations and ages, the dates of their respective entries, and showing, in cases of non-entry, whether owing to rejection or non-appearance, *ib.* 378.——*See* also *Apprentices. Elections.*

Derby, Right Hon. the Earl of. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Statement as to the arrangement with the Duke of Northumberland on his accepting the office of First Lord of the Admiralty as to the selection of the naval members of the Board, and as to the appointment and promotions in the naval service, 4799——Inconvenience which has arisen to the public service from the Lords of the Admiralty not being sufficiently conversant with Parliamentary habits and practice, 4799, 4800——Witness made no arrangement whatever with the Duke of Northumberland respecting the transfer of the civil patronage of the Admiralty to the Secretary; but considered the Duke of Northumberland responsible for the administration of that department, 4801——There is no foundation whatever for the reported statement of Mr. Stafford that he was under pressure from witness and the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the distribution of the patronage, 4802.

Derby, Lord. Witness delivers in a letter, dated 2 May 1853, stating that unless the Committee are perfectly satisfied that Lord Derby brought no undue influence to bear upon Mr. Stafford with reference to the dockyard appointments, his Lordship would wish to be called upon to give evidence before the Committee, *Hon. W. P. Talbot,* 1230.

See also *Government Pressure.*

Devonport Borough. Witness was one who took a part in entering a protest against the borough being enfranchised, and would be glad to see it disfranchised, *Beer* 4574–4579.

See also *Patronage Committees.*

Devonport Dockyard. The total number of men employed on the establishment at Devonport is 2098; number of extra labourers not on the establishment, *Seymour* 2403–2406——Return from Devonport Dockyard called for by the Admiralty, showing all the promotions and advancements among the officers and men between 1 March and 31 December 1852, *ib.* 2478——Observations upon this return, showing the number of promotions that have taken place in contravention of the circular of 1847, *ib.* 2479–2493——Witness

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Devonport Dockyard—continued.

cannot give the number of entries of persons into Devonport Dockyard in each of the months of 1852; opinion that the entries, subsequently to the issue of the circular of the 19 April, were larger than those which had taken place previously to that circular, *Seymour* 2523–2526——There were no grounds for the complaints of Mr. Stafford's friends, that the appointments and promotions in the dockyards were dispensed among their political opponents, as far as Devonport was concerned, *ib.* 2532–2534. 2573——Use of Nasmyth's hammer in the yard; the working of these hammers is perfectly understood; the work done is equal to that at the Woolwich Yard, *ib.* 2615–2623——Witness was satisfied with the course of promotion at Devonport previous to April 1852, *ib.* 2654.

No promotions took place in Devonport Dockyard during the time that Lord Derby's Administration held office, from March to December 1852, *Beer* 4595–4624. 4662–4666——Existence of political influence in Devonport Dockyard with respect to appointments and promotions, *ib.* 4612 *et seq.*——Vacancies existing in Devonport Dockyard when Lord Derby's Government came into power; these vacancies were not filled up, and still remained on their quitting office, *ib.* 4627–4638——List of vacancies in the Devonport Yard on 1 April 1852, *App.* 381.

See also *Ainslie, Mr. Apprentices. Canvass of Dockyard Voters. Edge, Mr. Elections. Labourers. Political Influence*, 1. *Private Trade. Sawyers. Superannuations.*

Devonport Election:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Remarks as to the Visit of Mr. Stafford to Devonport at the time of the late Election.*

1. *Generally:*

Before being appointed to Chatham, witness was two years at Devonport; witness never took any part in the elections at Devonport, *Cotsell* 1039, 1040——Evidence generally with respect to the canvass of non-commissioned officers and privates of the marines by Colonel Coryton, on behalf of General Berkeley, previous to the last election for Devonport, *Cross* 2247–2271; *Ching* 2280–2301——Canvass of voters in the marine corps by Colonel Coryton; witness considers that the course which Colonel Coryton took made an impression upon the marines as to the way in which they voted, *Ching* 2295–2299——Witness is orderly serjeant to Colonel Coryton; previous to the late election for Devonport he conveyed messages to several marines having votes for the borough, that Colonel Coryton desired their presence, *Mortimore* 2303–2323——Circumstances attending Sir George Berkeley and Colonel Berkeley waiting upon witness and desiring to canvass certain electors in the marine corps; witness saw no impropriety in having men under his command brought to his house to be canvassed; witness denies having taken any part in the canvass, *Coryton* 2327–2339. 2346–2352——Instructions received by witness from the Admiralty with respect to granting leave of absence to the marines under his command for the purpose of voting at the Devonport election, and directing him to report the names of all parties making such application, *ib.* 2340, 2341——Communication received by witness from Deputy Adjutant-general Owen, after the Devonport election, as to the list of names of the persons under witness's command who had voted; reply of witness thereto, *ib.* 2342–2345——Communications received by witness from Mr. Stafford in relation to the election of 1852, *Seymour* 2586–2588.

Captain Rich, the superintendent, spoke to witness as to the rumours of his conduct with regard to the election, *Triscott* 2735–2744——Witness denies having taken any part in the election either for Devonport or Plymouth; witness was applied to by the chairman of Sir George Berkeley's committee for assistance; refusal of witness to speak to the voters in the victualling yard as requested, *ib.* 2745–2759——Names of the parties who took an active part in the Devonport election, *ib.* 2753–2766——On Captain Rich speaking to witness respecting the report of his taking part in the elections, witness replied that he had not interfered therein, *ib.* 2978–2982——Witness did not canvass any of the voters under his command; he merely introduced them to Sir George Berkeley and Sir John Maxwell when they came to witness's house, *Coryton* 3082–3093——Active part taken by witness in all elections at Devonport since the borough was enfranchised in 1832; witness has acted as agent on the Conservative side at all elections, *Beer* 4552–4558——Evidence relative to the several elections at Devonport since 1832; great extent to which the dockyard influence has been used on behalf of the Government candidates, *ib.* 4559–4591——Nothing took place in the management of the late election for Devonport, as regards the conduct of persons connected with the Admiralty, different from that which took place at former elections, *ib.* 4708.

2. *Remarks as to the Visit of Mr. Stafford to Devonport at the time of the late Election:*

Circumstance under which witness accompanied Mr. Stafford and the Conservative candidates for Devonport round the dockyard previous to the election of 1852; witness never considered that so doing might give a notion to parties in the yard that those candidates

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Devonport Election—continued.

2. *Remarks as to the Visit of Mr Stafford to Devonport, &c.*—continued.

didates were in connexion with, and receiving the sanction of, witness and Mr. Stafford, the representatives of the Admiralty, *Seymour* 2590-2599. 2613. 2614——Particulars as to the dinner given to Mr. Stafford on his arrival at Devonport about the 22d of June; names of the parties present at this dinner, *Triscott* 2767-2797——Statement of the expenses incurred by the visit of the Secretary to the Admiralty to Devonport on the 22d June; the expenses of the Secretary and of the Board are always paid out of the contingencies of the Admiralty, *Hay* 3067-3081——With respect to Mr. Stafford's visit to Devonport, he never stated to the Board his intention of making that visit, nor did he make any report to the Board on his return, *Sir T. Herbert* 3760-3763——Evidence relative to witness's visit to Plymouth and Devonport in June 1852, and the dinners given by him at Morshead's Hotel, Devonport, to the officers of the yards, *Stafford* 4275-4315——Witness's visit to Devonport was not from any political motive; the fact of witness going round the dockyard with the Conservative candidates would not lead any parties to believe that they had the sanction of the Admiralty for being members for the borough, *ib.* 4312-4315——Observations relative to Mr. Stafford being at Devonport just previous to the election, and the dinner given by him on that occasion; names of several of the parties present at that dinner; not a single syllable was breathed about the Devonport election in any shape or way from the time the parties entered the room till they retired, *Beer* 4709-4731——Remarks relative to the visit of the Secretary to the Admiralty to Devonport at the time of the election; influential effect of such a visit on the voters; witness never knew it take place before at any election, *Right Hon. H. Tufnell*, 4815-4818. 4823-4831——Correspondence relative to the employment of the "Retribution" and the "Black Eagle," steam vessels, in conveying Mr. Stafford to Devonport, *App.* 383-385.

Disraeli, Right Hon. Benjamin, M.P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness denies having ever had any conversation with Mr. Stafford, or with any person who held office under the late Government, respecting the promotions in the dockyards; witness has never in any way been brought to consider the question as to appointments and promotions, either in the navy or in the dockyards, 4070-4085——Explanation as to the difficulties experienced by Mr. Stafford from the want of understanding and sympathy between the Board of Admiralty and the House of Commons; complaint of Mr. Stafford to witness upon the subject, and advice given him upon that occasion, 4072-4081——With regard to the officers in the Treasury, although they were politically hostile to witness's Government, yet whilst he was in office, they served him with the greatest cordiality and fidelity, 4077-4079.

Disraeli, Right Hon. B. Letter from Lord Henry Lennox to the Chairman of the Committee, dated 3 May 1853, enclosing a note from the Right Hon. B. Disraeli, desiring to be examined before the Committee, *Ev. p.* 135.

See also *Government Pressure.*

Distribution of Patronage. Remarks relative to the distribution of patronage; witness had no reason to be dissatisfied with the distribution when his opponents were in power, *Right Hon. H. Tufnell* 4808-4812.——*See* also *Patronage.*

Dockyard Voters. Observations as to the expediency of disfranchising the men in the dockyards, *Rep.* xiv.; *Milne* 620; *Richards* 208-212; *Fanshawe* 2235-2237; *Seymour* 2530, 2531; *Duke of Northumberland* 3108; *H. Eden* 3435-3458; *Rich* 3549-3552; *Hon. R. S. Dundas* 3676, 3677——Statement with respect to the influence which the voting of electors in the dockyards has upon their promotion; voters who have not supported the Government have been passed over, and those who have supported the Government have been promoted, *Sir B. Walker* 77-79. 112-124——Objections to the officers in the Government yards being prevented from interfering with politics, *Triscott* 3036——Opinion that no advantage whatever would arise from depriving the dockyard men of their votes, *Beer* 4652-4654; *Sir F. Baring* 4758-4762. 4768; *Right Hon. H. Tufnell* 4814, 4815——It would be unfair to the dockyard men to disfranchise them, unless the officers of the navy were also disfranchised, *Beer* 4692——Witness never heard the dockyard voters express a wish that they should be disfranchised, *Right Hon. H. Tufnell* 4814, 4815.——*See* also *Canvass of Dockyard Voters.*

Dockyards. Opinion of the Committee, that in its bearing upon the public interest the importance of the system under which labour in the dockyards is regulated, can hardly be over-rated, *Rep.* xiv——Number of men at present in these establishments, and amount of the vote for wages, *ib.*——Number of men borne on the establishment of the dockyards in 1830, 1834, 1846, and 1848, showing the great increase, *Sir B. Walker* 164————Reduction of the number of men on the dockyard establishment from 12,498 to 9,621 on witness coming into office in 1848; sufficiency of the present establishment, *ib.* 165-173——In witness's account of the number of men on the dockyard establishment, he does not include any that belong to the steam navy, as that is entirely distinct,

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Dockyards—continued.

Sir B. Walker 174–179——Return of the number of men employed in the different dockyards in the years 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, and 1851, *App.* 389——Return of the wages' expenditure of the dockyard for the years 1846–47 and 1851–52, showing the decrease which has taken place, *ib.*

See also *Appointments. Foreign Dockyards. Private Trade. Promotions. Task-work.*

Duncombe, Captain The Hon. Arthur, M. P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witnes issued the acting warrant of Cotsell early in October 1852; before signing the warrant, the circumstances of the case were brought under witness's knowledge, 4458–4461——Opinion that the appointment of Wells by Admiral Parker was irregularly made, 4460, 4461——The majority of the Board of Admiralty held a strong opinion opposed to the appointment of men from the private trade, as being detrimental and unjust to the old dockyard servants, 4461–4465——Remarks as to the committee sent by the First Lord of the Admiralty to examine into the improvement existing in the private yards; from some informality that Committee did not prosecute its inquiries, or make any report, 4465–4468.

At the time of signing Cotsell's appointment witness was not aware that Wells was at Portsmouth, as witness was given to understand that he had received no warrant, and no official appointment whatever, 4469–4487. 4492——Witness was not aware that Sir Frederic Smith had strongly recommended Cotsell, or that it was through political influence that Cotsell's name had been so strongly brought forward by the Secretary, 4488, 4489——No injury is likely to arise to the service from persons who have held inferior offices in a dockyard being promoted to a high office in the same yard, 4490–4491.

Dundas, Captain the Honourable Richard Saunders, R. N. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—One of the Lords of the Admiralty; came into office with the present Government in January, 3612, 3613——Was previously superintendent of the dockyard and victualling yard at Deptford, 3614–3618——Previous to the circular of 19 April 1852, the submissions for promotions were sent to the Surveyor of the Navy, since that time they have been sent to the Secretary of the Admiralty, 3619–3625——Witness never had reason to think that the recommendations were not fairly considered in the Surveyor's department, but on the contrary, everything came very regularly from it, 3624——Since the issue of the circular of 19 April 1852, two or three circumstances have occurred as to promotions in the victualling yard in which witness's recommendations have not been attended to with fairness, 3626–3648.

The circular of 1849 was a decided improvement on the previous practice, 3647——Visit paid to the Deptford Yard by Mr. Stafford, accompanied by Mr. Rolt, the candidate for Greenwich; witness is not aware that any canvassing took place, 3649–3653——Communication received by witness from Mr. Stafford, with reference to the Greenwich election, stating that it was the wish of the Board of Admiralty that Mr. Rolt should be returned; witness took no notice of this letter, 3654–3669——On witness's appointment to Deptford, he received special directions from Sir Francis Baring to abstain from any interference in politics, 3670——Communications received by witness from the Admiralty, expressing dissatisfaction at the conduct and manner in which the general business was conducted at Deptford, 3671–3674——Witness never received any letter from the Admiralty as to any political influence being used in the Deptford Yard, 3675——Precluding all persons employed in the dockyards from voting or interfering at elections would be beneficial, 3676, 3677——It would be disadvantageous to the service if promotions were carried on generally without the Surveyor of the Navy being consulted, 3678–3685.

[Second Examination.]—Further reference to the letter received by witness from Mr. Stafford, requesting his assistance in returning Mr. Rolt, Member for Greenwich, 4370–4378——It never occurred to witness that it was an electioneering hoax, nor has witness the slightest doubt about the letter coming from Mr. Stafford, 4378.

E.

Eden, Commodore Henry, R. N. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Superintendent of Woolwich Dockyard; was previously private secretary to Lord Auckland, 3271–3273——Particulars as to the appointment of Mr. Black, from the private trade, as master smith at Woolwich, 3274–3281——Witness has heard what took place at Portsmouth with regard to the admission of Mr. Wells; if he had produced to witness the letter that he did, witness would have accepted him without hesitation, 3282. 3444——Opinion that the salary of a person appointed to a situation in the dockyards commences from the date of his letter of appointment, 3283–3285——Some of the men in Woolwich Dockyard have votes for the borough of Greenwich; care taken to prevent canvassing in the dockyard, 3286–3290——At the time of the elections in 1849 and 1851 there was no interference with witness's submission as to recommendations for promotions, 3291–3296——Observations

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as to certain cases of promotion in 1852, when witness's recommendations were not attended to, and certain men promoted whose term of service was much below that of the parties passed over, 3297-3327. 3330-3334. 3370-3378.

Opinion that the circular of 1849 did not give the appointments to the Surveyor; he only submitted them, 3328, 3329. 3419——Practice of the superintendents of dockyards to send up the names of two men for selection; importance of adhering to this system, 3335-3338——Rumours existing that political influence was at work in Woolwich Dockyard as to promotions, which was not the case, 3339, 3340——A list of vacancies in the dockyard is sent up once a month by the Superintendent, 3341—— Statement as to the number of men on the establishment at Woolwich; number of convicts; the establishment is under the mark for the work to be done, 3342-3355——Vacancies are usually reserved for lads coming out of the school, as apprentices; when witness pressed for the vacancies to be filled up in 1852, he had no knowledge of any apprentice coming from the central school at Portsmouth, 3356-3369.

Remarks as to the case of Smale, who was promoted as master smith at Chatham upon the removal of Cotsell to Portsmouth; witness made no recommendation in his favour, 3379-3382——Great advantage to the public service from the introduction of men from the private trade into the dockyards; improvement in the Woolwich smithery since the appointment of Mr. Black, 3383-3399——Annoyance of Admiral Parker at the substitution of Cotsell for Wells, as master smith at Portsmouth, 3400-3405——Both at Portsmouth and Chatham, witness considered that the smitheries might be put under a person from the private trade with advantage, 3406-3408.

Usual practice as to the examination and entry of apprentices at Woolwich; seven boys were sent down by the Admiralty in 1852, for examination for shipwright's apprentices; objectionable nature of this unusual proceeding, 3409-3415. 3424-3429—— Remarks as to the supply of flags from the dockyard at the elections; no flags were supplied at the election in 1852; 3416, 3417——Preference given by witness to the circular of 1849 over that of 1847; it is very desirable that the promotions should go through the Surveyor, 3418, 3419——Opinion that no man could carry out things in a more proper way, according to the circular of 1849, than Sir B. Walker always did; everything went forward to the best advantage for the interests of the service, 3420-3423——Witness had no communication with the Admiralty respecting the election of 1852, 3430-3432——No canvassing was carried on in the dockyard to witness's knowledge, 3433-3440——Circumstances of the case of Stephen Becks, who was entered as a labourer at Woolwich by Mr. Stafford, 3441-3443——It would be beneficial to preclude all persons employed in the dockyards from voting or interfering at elections; but witness doubts if it would altogether overcome the evil, 3445-3448.

Eden, Walter. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Third clerk in the department of the Surveyor of the Navy, 258, 259. 263——Conversation which took place between Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Grant in March 1852, on the occasion of the latter bringing a message from Mr. Stafford respecting some promotions in Devonport Dockyard; refusal of Sir B. Walker to comply with the proposition, and statement made by him that he had never allowed political motives to influence his submissions to the Board, with respect to promotions, 260-262——Remarks relative to the correspondence on the subject of promotions, which was sent from Somerset House to the Admiralty, and which cannot be found; it is a very unusual thing for any documents to be lost in the way those documents were lost, 264-273.

[Second Examination.]—With reference to the missing documents, referring to promotions, they were transmitted to the Admiralty under witness's direction, in the usual manner, 526-532.

[Third Examination.]—The papers received from the Admiralty at Somerset House are entered and numbered; witness has searched for any information relating to the circular of 19 April, but cannot find any record whatever, 3951-3957.

[Fourth Examination.]—Witness received instructions on the 29th November, to copy a letter to the Admiralty, enclosing the correspondence relative to Sir B. Walker's resignation; some time afterwards, on the same day, witness copied another letter, in which no allusion was made to the enclosures, 4869-4877.

Edge, Mr. Reference to the conduct of Mr. Edge, an officer in Devonport Yard, and his supposed interference with politics at the late election; denial of Mr. Edge that he canvassed any man in the yard, *Seymour* 2534-2546——Witness has no proof of Mr. Edge having used his political influence among the men in the yard during the election; statement of Mr. Edge as to how far he interfered at the election; witness relies upon that statement, *ib.* 2560-2573——Witness is not aware that Mr. Edge took any part in witness's election for Devonport; witness never considered him a partizan, *Right Hon. H. Tufnell* 4803-4805.

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Elections. Observations of the Committee as to the exercise of the influence and patronage of the Admiralty in the dockyards and Government departments connected with the several Parliamentary boroughs, *Rep.* xiii, xiv——Remarks relative to Mr. Stafford having visited Chatham, Deptford, and Devonport Dockyards at the time of the elections; admission of Mr. Stafford that his conduct was wrong and not consistent with his duty, *ib.*——Ignorance pleaded by Mr. Stafford of the stringent objections under which the superintendents of the dockyards were required to abstain from all political interference, *ib.* xiv——Thus, in ignorance of much he should have known, seeking counsel from none, and rejecting such counsel as had been tendered, Mr. Stafford acted in disregard of precedents, and pursued a course which rendered the circulars of the Admiralty, and the conditions imposed on the superintendents, equally nugatory and valueless, *ib.*

See also *Admiralty, The. Beresford, Major. Canvass of Dockyard Voters. Dockyard Voters. Forester, Colonel. Government Influence. Political Influence,* 2.

Engineers. The engineers who are appointed to the Navy are always examined by witness, *Lloyd* 3605.

Estimates. Opinion that the Surveyor should not have the control of the expenditure of the money in the dockyards; the Surveyor should not be answerable for the estimates, *Stafford* 1298——Circumstances under which the management and responsibility of the Dockyard estimates were transferred to witness, *Sir B. Walker* 3491-3493——Great difficulties which witness experienced in making himself understood by the Board in his endeavours to prevent the estimates from being exceeded, *Stafford* 4088-4093——Superintendence of the preparation of the estimates by the Surveyor; reductions effected by Sir B. Walker during witness's administration of the Admiralty, *Sir F. Baring* 4763-4765.

Ethell, Samuel. Case of the promotion of Samuel Ethell to the metal mills, Chatham, without being recommended by the superintendent and the officers, *Richards* 2124.

Examination of Shipwrights. Formerly there was an examination of shipwrights to ascertain their qualifications previous to recommending them for promotion; this system has been discontinued; the examination had a very good effect, *Fincham* 3842-3860. 3869-3876——Great advantage of the system of examination of shipwrights in the dockyards, to ascertain their qualifications previous to promotion; Mr. Fincham must be under a wrong impression when he states the practice to have been discontinued at Portsmouth, *Sir B. Walker* 3910-3913.

Extra Labourers. Manner in which the extra men at the dockyards are appointed, *Richards* 2167-2172.

F.

Fanshawe, Rear-Admiral Arthur. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard; was appointed on 1 Oct. 1852, 2224-2230——On witness's appointment to Portsmouth yard, he was directed to adhere strictly to the instructions contained in Sir Francis Baring's memorandum upon the subject of not interfering in any way with politics, 2231-2234——The disfranchisement of all the dockyard men would be beneficial to the public service, 2235-2237.

Fincham, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was master-shipwright at Portsmouth; has held the same office at Sheerness and Chatham; was previously superintendent of the school of naval architecture, 3799-3804——The department of the master smith at Portsmouth was under witness's superintendence, 3805-3807——Witness has visited the Woolwich smitheries since they have been under the management of a person from the private trade; opinion that they have not improved under that management, and that there is a great waste of fuel, 3808-3820——Witness has inspected the Chatham smitheries; the state of the smithery under Mr. Cotsell were much superior to the smithery at Woolwich, 3821-3833——Great desire of witness to have Mr. Cotsell at Portsmouth, as from his efficiency the service would be benefited, 3831. 3834-3841.

Formerly there was an examination of shipwrights to ascertain their qualifications previous to recommending them for promotion; this system has been discontinued; the examination had a very good effect, 3842-3860. 3869-3876——During the time witness was at Portsmouth he was always satisfied with the promotions which were made on his submissions, 3861, 3862——Frequency of men wishing to leave Portsmouth Dockyard to join the private trade, from the low rate of wages, 3863-3868——The introduction of persons from the private trade into the dockyards is an injustice to the men on the establishments, 3877-3885.

No advantage to the smitheries is likely to result from the employment of men from the private trade, 3878-3885——Witness considers that no injury can arise to the discipline of a yard by a person formerly holding an inferior office being promoted to a high office in the same yard, 3886-3889——On the superannuation of Mr. Tyler, and the consequent vacancy of the office of master smith at Portsmouth, witness wrote a private letter to Sir B. Walker, recommending Cotsell for the appointment, 3890-3892.

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Fincham, Mr. Statement as to a submission made by witness, by the direction of the First Lord, with respect to a master shipwright on the retirement of Mr. Finchman; the papers are approved both by the First Lord and by Admiral Parker, *Sir B. Walker* 3524, 3525.

First Entries. See *Appointments.*

Forbes, Richard. Correspondence as to the promotion of Richard Forbes as second-class foreman of smiths in Woolwich Dockyard, *App.* 365, 366——Copy of the warrant of appointment of Richard Forbes to that situation, *ib.*

Foreign Dockyards. The reports from the foreign yards were formerly sent to witness, and by him sent to the Admiralty; since the circular repealing the order of 1849, these reports have not come through witness's office, *Sir B. Walker* 3194, 3195——Observations as to the appointment of an engine-fitter to the yard at Malta by Mr. Stafford; witness was not consulted upon this appointment, nor was he aware there was a vacancy, *ib.* 3495–3507.

Forester, Colonel. Communications witness had with Colonel Forester, with respect to the election for the borough of Devonport, *Triscott* 2910–2913.

Fowler, Matthew. See *Chatham Dockyard.*

G.

Government Influence. Observations of the Committee with respect to the exercise of the influence and patronage of the Admiralty in the dockyards and Government departments connected with the several Parliamentary boroughs, *Rep.* xiii, xiv——With regard to the Chatham election, on almost every occasion the Government candidate has prevailed; this is greatly attributable to the exercise of Government influence, *Scott* 1063–1079; *Richards* 2216——The dockyard interest is so great in the dockyard boroughs that no candidate stands any chance of success in opposition to it; whichever Government is in has a very great chance of success for any dockyard borough, *Triscott* 3056–3066——In all the places familiarly called Government boroughs, the influence of any Government in office is always exerted in support of their own candidate, *Right Hon. H. Tufnell* 4821. 4821.——*See* also *Devonport Election,* 1. *Elections.*

Government Pressure. Observations of the Committee on the evidence relative to the expression of Mr. Stafford, that he was so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the promotions, that he could not help himself, and the denial of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli of their having used language which could afford any ground for such a statement, *Rep.* vi——Although there is a material difference in the evidence upon the subject, it is agreed that the names of the two most influential Members of the Government were introduced in an argument wherein the Secretary of the Admiralty endeavoured to constrain the Surveyor of the Navy to consent to an alteration of the system under which promotions were regulated, *ib.*

In witness's interview with Mr. Stafford on 5 April, with reference to the cancelling of the circular of 1849, he stated that his political friends were dissatisfied, and that he was so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he could not help himself, *Sir B. Walker* 125–131——Observations with regard to the interview witness had with Sir B. Walker, as to the pressure on witness, in respect to the dockyard patronage by certain members of his party; there was no pressure put upon witness either by Lord Derby or the Chancellor of the Exchequer, *Stafford* 1137. 1215–1222——With regard to the statement of Mr. Stafford as to the pressure upon him by certain members of the Government, as to the promotions in the dockyards, witness is positive that upon two occasions he mentioned the names of Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer as being the parties referred to; upon one occasion Admiral Parker was present, *Sir B. Walker* 3893–3903——With regard to the evidence of Sir B. Walker, that Mr. Stafford stated it was no use blinking the question in regard to promotions, he being so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he could not help himself, Admiral Parker confirmed having heard Mr. Stafford use those words in his presence, *Admiral Berkeley* 4493——There is no foundation whatever for the statement of Mr. Stafford, that he was under pressure from witness and the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the distribution of the patronage, *Earl of Derby* 4802.

Graham, Sir James. See *Circular of* 1849, 2. *Political Influence,* 2. *Wells, Mr.,* 3.

Grant, Thomas George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was Private Secretary to Mr. Stafford; has been private secretary to different Lords of the Admiralty, 1606–1608——Interview witness had with Sir B. Walker towards the end of March 1852, to ascertain whether certain vacancies existed in the dockyards, the Secretary having received applications for certain vacancies, the reports of which had not reached him, 1609–1627——Inquiries instituted by witness at the record office of the Admiralty, on the 22d November, for any correspondence that had taken place with the Surveyor of the Navy;

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Grant, Thomas George. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

no such papers were to be found in the office; it is not an uncommon occurrence for papers inquired for to be missing, 1628–1637——Witness was present at an interview between Mr. Stafford and Sir B. Walker on the 29 November, when Sir B. Walker handed what appeared to be a draft of a letter to Mr. Stafford, and said he would take it to Somerset House and have it written in the regular course, 1638–1645.

During the year 1852 there were several rumours that Sir B. Walker intended to resign; witness first heard the rumour about the 19 April, when the circular of that date was issued, 1646–1649. 1657–1661——Witness saw the original circular of 19 April, but is not aware whether it was initialed by any Lord of the Admiralty, 1650–1656. 1662, 1663——It is usual for all papers relating to appointments and promotions to pass through witness's hands; usual course of proceeding with respect to the selection of names for promotion by the Secretary, 1664–1678——The circular of 19 April was not looked upon as an important circular by the Secretary, although the Surveyor of the Navy remonstrated against such a change being made by the abrogation of the order of 1849; 1679–1694.

Greenwich Election. Evidence as to witness's communication with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie with respect to Mr. Rolt's election for Greenwich; witness persuaded Mr. Rolt to go on with the contest, otherwise he would have given up, *Triscott* 2820-2863——Remarks as to the supply of flags from the dockyard at the elections; no flags were supplied at the election in 1852, *H. Eden* 3416-3417——Witness had no communication with the Admiralty respecting the election, *ib.* 3430-3432——Communication received by witness from Mr. Stafford, with reference to the Greenwich election, stating that it was the wish of the Board of Admiralty that Mr. Rolt should be returned; witness took no notice of this letter, *Hon. R. S. Dundas* 3654-3669. 4370-4378——Witness was not aware of the Secretary having written to Captain Dundas requesting him to use his influence in reference to the Greenwich election, *Sir T. Herbert* 3757-3759——Witness never wrote to Captain Dundas desiring him to use his influence in favour of Mr. Rolt; witness considers the letter to have been an election hoax. *Stafford* 4323-43284. 4378——It never occurred to witness that the letter received by witness was an electioneering hoax, nor has witness the slightest doubt about the letter coming from Mr. Stafford, *Hon. R. S. Dundas* 4378.——*See* also *Deptford Dockyard.*

Groves, William. Observations relative to the promotion of William Groves, a furnaceman at Chatham, to the situation of forge-man, although reported not qualified by the superintendent, *Sir B. Walker* 138–147; *Stafford* 1395–1401; *Richards* 2063–2078——Reports of the officers of the yard as to his incompetency; correspondence upon the subject of his promotion, *Richards* 2063–2078——Witness is still of opinion that it is inconvenient for the public service that Groves should have been appointed and should continue in his appointment, *ib.* 2183–2186——Neither Captain Richards' letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty nor the letter from the Admiralty to Captain Richards with respect to the case of William Groves were ever brought under witness's consideration, *Duke of Northumberland* 3185, 3186. 3190-3192.

H.

Hamilton, Captain William Alexander, R.N. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Second Secretary to the Admiralty; was appointed in January 1845; has been re-appointed by every Board, 3449–3453——Explanation as to witness having inadvertently signed the letter naming Wells as master smith for Portsmouth; how far witness has any discretion in the signing or withholding of letters, 3454–3471——How far witness kept back the appointment of Mr. Wells, in compliance with the request of Mr. Stafford, to look after his patronage during his absence from the Admiralty, 3472–3478——All the papers and documents in relation to the appointment of Wells were given by witness into the possession of Mr. Piers, 3479–3481——Witness never heard of the circular of the 19th April until a few days ago, when this whole matter came forward, 3482, 3483.

Hamilton, Captain. Witness requested Captain Hamilton, through Mr. Grant, to postpone any appointments of importance during his absence from the Admiralty, *Stafford* 3484–3486.——*See* also *Wells, Mr.*, 2.

Hawkins, William. Remarks relative to the promotion of William Hawkins from a labourer to a police constable in the Plymouth Victualling-yard; this promotion took place in the regular way, *Rich* 3580–3585.

Hay, John Holman. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Chief Clerk at the Admiralty; has been forty-seven years in the service, 701–703——Opinion that there would be great difficulty in adopting any course for the discovery of the missing papers as to certain promotions, referred to by Sir B. Walker, 704, 705——Detail of witness's duties as Chief Clerk to the Admiralty, 705——Manner in which documents from the various branches of the service are received at the Admiralty, and distributed to the departments to which they belong; impossibility of keeping a daily account of various documents received, from their number, 706–723——Frequency of papers being lost at the Admiralty; witness has never been

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Hay, John Holman. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

been able to discover how to obviate this evil, 712-716——After the circular of 19 April, recommendations for promotions came direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty; the Surveyor of the Navy had no opportunity of giving an opinion upon those appointments; that was the actual course pursued until the cancelling of Mr. Stafford's circular, 723-734.

[Second Examination.]—Statement of the expenses incurred by the visit of the Secretary to the Admiralty to Devonport, on the 22d June; the expenses of the Board and the Secretary are always paid out of the contingencies of the Admiralty, 3067-3081.

Herbert, Admiral Sir Thomas, K.C.B., M.P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was appointed a Lord of the Admiralty upon Lord Derby's accession to office in March 1852; department of the public service put under witness's care, 3688-3695——Witness never heard of the circular of the 19th April 1852 until that of the 26th April came before the Board; witness did not attach any importance to the circular or the changes made by it in the system of promotions, 3696-3701. 3732-3734——Opinion that the Surveyor of the Navy ought to be consulted as to all vacancies and promotions, 3702. 3720-3725——Witness never suspected, nor does he believe that the Surveyor of the Navy used any political influence with regard to his recommendations for promotions, 3703-3706——Witness was not aware of the great difference of opinion existing among some of the Lords of the Admiralty as to the promotions in the dockyards, until the papers were moved for by Admiral Berkeley, on the 22d November, 3707, 3708.

Remarks relative to the letter from Sir G. Berkeley forwarded to Commodore Seymour as to the promised appointment of Birt as inspector of the planing machines, he having voted for Sir G. Berkeley; reply of Commodore Seymour to Admiral Parker upon the subject, 3709-3711——Looking at the good of the service and the efficiency of the dockyards, witness approves of the stringency of the circular of February 1847; 3712-3715——The circular of 1849 did not give the absolute patronage to the Surveyor of the Navy, he only had the power of recommending names to the Board, 3716-3719——The letter from the Admiralty to Captain Richards of 24 May, with respect to the filling up of the vacancy for a forgeman at Chatham Yard, never came before the Board, 3726-3731. 3764-3779——On the issue of the circular of 26 April, witness considered that the provisions of the Order of 1847 would be carried out, and the Surveyor consulted in reference to all promotions, 3732-3741.

Letter from Admiral Hornby to witness, stating that he had never been consulted by Admiral Parker or Sir B. Walker upon the subject of the dockyards; Admiral Hornby would have been an excellent person to have consulted, 3741-3745——Witness is not aware that the circular of 1847 has been disturbed by the Board of Admiralty, although it appears by the evidence that it has been disturbed by the Secretary, 3746-3753——Witness was present at the Board on the 22 or 23 November, when allusion was made to the correspondence between the Surveyor and the Admiralty; none of the Members seemed aware of the existence of such papers; neither Admiral Parker nor Mr. Stafford intimated that there had been any such correspondence, 3754-3756——Witness was not aware of the Secretary having written to Captain Dundas, requesting him to use his influence in reference to the Greenwich election, 3757-3759.

With respect to Mr. Stafford's visit to Devonport, he never stated to the Board his intention of making that visit, nor did he make any report to the Board on his return, 3760-3763——It is the usual practice for the Secretary to the Admiralty, in writing letters, to make use of the term "by command of their Lordships," even when the letter does not come before the Board, 3764-3773——Opinion that Captain Richards was fully justified in filling up the vacancy for a forgeman at Chatham, from the private trade, as the order of the Admiralty to that effect had not been rescinded, 3773-3777.

Hornby, Admiral. Letter from Admiral Hornby to witness, stating that he had never been consulted by Admiral Parker or Sir B. Walker upon the subject of the dockyards; Admiral Hornby would have been an excellent person to have consulted, *Sir T. Herbert* 3741-3745.

Houghton, Nelson. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Clerk in the Admiralty; keeps the minute books, 465——Manner in which the minutes of the Board are entered, 466-471——Entry contained in the general minute book of 19 April 1852 with respect to vacancies and promotions in the dockyards and the cancelling of the order of 26 September 1849; names of the members of the Board present, 466-493——Minute of the Board of 26 April 1852 with respect to dockyard promotions, and that no imputation was intended to be cast upon the Surveyor of the Navy by the circular of the 19 April, 494-504.

[Second Examination.]—Reference to the minute of the 18 October 1852, contained in the general minute book, respecting James Wells's memorial; the entry being in the general minute book implies that it is not a Board minute; but may have been made by the Secretary or a single Lord, 907-920——Entry contained in the general minute book of 10 September 1852, referring to the appointment of Mr. Wells; there is no entry of the kind in the Board minute book, 921-925.

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I.

Instructions to Officers. Reference to a book sent in by witness, called general instructions for the five principal officers of the civil department of the Admiralty; the book is not dated, but refers to 1841; those are the instructions under which witness acted as secretary; there is another order in 1844, *Stafford* 4549. 4560——The last general dockyard instructions were prepared in 1844; they do not contain any instructions to the five principal officers of the civil department of the Admiralty, *Pennell* 4788-4790 ——Code of instructions issued in 1844 to the five principal officers of the civil department of the Admiralty; this was a modification of the regulations of 1833, *ib.* 4791-4793 ——Letter of instructions written in 1848 to the Surveyor; how far these superseded the instructions under which he was previously acting, *ib.* 4794-4797——Copy of circular order to the superintendents of dockyards, dated 1 November 1852, with regard to consolidating the general printed dockyard instructions, and desiring any suggestions on the subject, *App.* 361.— *See* also *Surveyor of the Navy*, 1.

L.

Labourers. Extract from a letter from Commodore Seymour, dated 27 April 1852, with respect to the promotion of labourers at Devonport Yard, *Sir B. Walker* 1129, 1130—— Vacancies in the dockyards have been sometimes filled up without witness's knowledge; instance of the appointment of some labourers at Woolwich, *Stafford* 1305-1307—— Statement as to the course pursued in filling up vacancies for labourers in the dockyards; the patronage rests with the Secretary of the Admiralty, *Grant* 1315-1323; *Stafford* 1324——Remarks relative to the selection of labourers for recommendation; persons from whom information respecting labourers is obtained; witness's selection of permanent labourers has been usually taken from the extra labourers, *Martin* 1957. 1969-1988——How far the removal of extra or hired labourers to the establishment comes within the rule laid down for promotion; correspondence with Admiral Parker upon this subject, *Richards* 2005, 2006——Labourers in the Devonport Yard are promoted occasionally to be labourers in the storehouses, *Seymour* 2499-2507——Difference between the day and the established labourers in Devonport Yard, *ib.* 2518-2522—— It is a great advantage to labourers to be appointed permanently, because until their confirmation their time for superannuation would not go on, *Beer* 4607.

See also *Extra Labourers.* *Sawyers.*

Lloyd, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Chief engineer and inspector of machinery for the navy, 3588——Examination of Mr. Wells by witness as to his qualifications for the office of master smith at Portsmouth; witness considered him to be a desirable person for the smithery, 3589-3604——The engineers who are appointed to the navy are always examined by witness, 3605——Witness was a member of a committee appointed in 1845 for the examination of the smitheries in the dockyards; opinion of the Committee that the smitheries were not in a very satisfactory condition, as compared with good establishments in the private trade, 3606-3611.

Lords of the Admiralty. Patronage exercised by the different Lords of the Admiralty, *Milne* 590-596——Witness was not aware of the great difference of opinion existing among some of the Lords of the Admiralty as to the promotions in the dockyards until the papers were moved for by Admiral Berkeley on the 22d November, *Sir T. Herbert* 3707, 3708.

M.

Marsh, ——. Particulars as to the promotion of Marsh, a private in the Marines, to corporal, in consequence of his having voted for General Berkeley, *Cross* 2268. 2271-2276—— Denial that Marsh was promised to be promoted to a corporal if he would vote for General Berkeley, or that he was promoted for thus voting, *Coryton* 2331.

Martin, Captain George, R.N. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Superintendent of Deptford Dockyard; was appointed 10 January 1853; Captain Dundas was witness's predecessor, 1954, 1955——Condition annexed to witness's acceptance of office by Sir James Graham, that politics were to form no point in recommendations, but that witness was to be guided by merit and proper conduct, 1956——Remarks relative to the selection of labourers for recommendation; persons from whom information respecting the labourers is obtained; witness's selection of permanent labourers has been usually taken from the extra labourers, 1957. 1969-1988——Manner in which the apprentices of shipwrights in the yard are entered as shipwrights; there is no selection or recommendation of apprentices; they come in their routine after they have served their time, 1958-1969.

Memorials.

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Memorials. Remarks relative to Mr. Cotsell's memorial of 2 April 1852 for the vacant office of master smith at Portsmouth, *Sir B. Walker* 842. 1459–1476. 1487—— Witness was informed by Admiral Parker that Wells' memorial never came before the Board; therefore the answer to Wells, of 18 October, must have been given on the responsibility of the Secretary, *ib.* 842–846——Reference to the Minute of 18 October 1852, contained in the general minute book respecting James Wells' memorial; the entry being in the general minute book implies that it is not a Board minute, but may have been made by the Secretary or a single Lord, *Houghton* 907–920—— Practice in regard to reports and memorials received by the Surveyor of the Navy from the dockyards, as to forwarding them to the Admiralty, *Sir B. Walker* 1487–1492——The letter from Captain Richards, the Superintendent of Chatham Dockyard, of 5 April 1852, containing the memorial of George Cotsell, was not received in the record department of the Admiralty till 29 January 1853, *Barrow* 1513. 1526–1528——Witness is accustomed to receive and to place in the record department memorials sent from the different dockyards, with the observations of the superintendents; course pursued with regard to putting the documents aside in the record department, *ib.* 1514–1526.

Letter from witness to Mr. Wells, dated 18 October 1852, in answer to his memorial; witness never received any further communication from Mr. Wells, the next communication being that of 6 January 1853, when witness had left the office, *Stafford* 1802–1805——Witness did not bring Mr. Wells' memorial under the consideration of any Lords of the Admiralty before answering it, *ib.* 1827–1832——Copy memorial of James Wells, late master smith at Portsmouth dockyard, *App.* 367——Correspondence on the subject of that memorial, *ib.* 367–369.——*See* also *Cotsell, Mr.*, 1. 2.

Metal Mills, Chatham. Explanation with respect to the metal mills at Chatham; practice as to appointments and promotions; rate of pay of the men employed, *Richards* 2102–2106.——Letter from Mr. A. Laurie, chief engineer, relating to the promotion of workmen in the metal mills, Chatham, *App.* 379, 380.——See also *Ridgway, Joseph.*

Milne, Captain Alexander. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness has been continually at the Board of Admiralty since December 1847, under several different administrations, 533—— Statement as to the departments in the Admiralty which are specially under witness's supervision, 534——With regard to the promotions in the upper branches of the dockyard service, they belong to the First Lord of the Admiralty; the minor promotions have been generally vested in the Secretary, 535, 536——Witness was not aware of the issue of the circular of the 19th April 1852, until the 25th or 26th; witness did not consult with any other Lords of the Admiralty upon the subject, 537–541——Witness was accidentally present and heard Sir B. Walker read his letter tendering his resignation to Admiral Parker; witness had no communication with any person upon the subject of that letter, 542–547.

Remarks as to the circular issued on 26 April 1852, referring to a previous circular which had been issued by the Secretary without being brought before the Board, 548–552——It is not usual for the Secretary to issue circulars of any kind, as their Lordships' circulars, which have not been formally sanctioned by the Board; any circular so issued was an irregularity, 553–563——The circular of 26 April seemed to have been agreed to before it was brought to the Board, and no discussion was raised upon it, 564, 565. 645–647—— Committee of the Lords of the Admiralty appointed in 1848 to inquire into the dockyards; proceedings of the committee in looking into the details of the arrangements of the respective yards, 566–568——Opinion of the committee of the Admiralty of 1848, in favour of the system of promotions in the dockyards, under the circular of 1847; the circular of 1849 was merely a confirmation of a part of the system that was then in force, 569–572.

Necessity for the Surveyor having a control upon the appointments, 573——The circular of 1849 was an improvement upon the previous practice as to promotions; witness is not aware of any reason for altering the practice thought good in 1849, 574, 575——Opinion that before the issue of the circular of 19 April 1852, no political influence had been used in making appointments or promotions in the dockyards, 576–581—— Witness was not aware of the letter written by Sir B. Walker to the First Lord of the Admiralty, on 10 May 1852, until some time afterwards; that letter was never, to witness's knowledge, brought before the Board, 582–587——Statement as to the patronage possessed by the Secretary of the Admiralty, 588, 589——Patronage exercised by the different Lords of the Admiralty, 590–596——It is an unusual circumstance for minutes to be brought to the Board which have been previously agreed upon, except in matters of no importance, 597–599.

The result of the inquiry into the working of the system of promotions established by Sir Henry Ward, was most satisfactory, 600, 601——Directions given by Sir Francis Baring with reference to the non-interference with politics in the yards, 602–605——In matters of minor detail the Secretary or an individual Lord may issue minutes; such minutes would generally be entered in the general minute book, 606–608——The irregularity of the issuing of the circular of the 19 April, without the knowledge of the Board, ought to have been brought before the Board immediately, 609–611——The

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Milne, Captain Alexander. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Surveyor of the Navy should have an opportunity of making his remarks upon the appointments and promotions in the dockyards, 612-619——It is very desirable that the men in the dockyards should cease to have votes, 620.

Circumstances under which witness used his influence with Sir B. Walker, to induce him to withhold the copies of the letters called for by the Board; witness considered that as some explanation had taken place, the whole question was done with, 622-628. 641-644. 649——Power of the Board to annul any order of the Secretary, if they disapprove of it, 629-631——The circular of the 26 April gives a confirmation of the previous circular of the 19 April, 632-635——The cancelling of the circular of 1849 would not of itself have prevented the Surveyor from giving his opinion in regard to promotions, provided all the returns were sent to him, but it would be in the power of the Secretary to forward or withhold them, 636-638——Particulars as to the removal of a storekeeper named Baldock from Chatham to Devonport, on account of his active political partisanship, 639,640——Witness never remonstrated against the issue of the circular of the 19 April, 648.

Milne, Captain. See *Correspondence.*

Minutes of the Board of Admiralty. Opinion of the Committee, that the minute books of the Admiralty do not afford all the information in regard to past transactions which is desirable for reference, *Rep.* xiv——In order to obviate the inconvenience, an improved arrangement might be made, so that orders entered in the general minute book may not long remain without the cognizance of the Board, and so that in after years a reference to the general minute book may show not only the purport of the minute, but the authority for its issue, *ib.*——Manner in which minutes are signed, which are agreed to at the Board of Admiralty, *Sir H. Parker* 371-374——Way in which the minutes of the Board are entered, *Houghton* 466-471; *Briggs* 1535——Entry contained in the general minute book of 19 April 1852, with respect to vacancies and promotions in the dockyards, and the cancelling of the order of 26 September 1849; names of the members of the Board present, *Houghton* 466-493——Minute of the Board of the 26 April 1852, with respect to dockyard promotions, and that no imputation was intended to be cast upon the Surveyor of the Navy by the circular of the 19 April, *ib.* 494-564——In matters of minor detail, the Secretary or an individual Lord may issue minutes; such minutes would generally be entered in the general minute book, *Milne* 606-608.

See also *Board of Admiralty.* *Circular of* 1849, 1. 2.

Missing Documents. Remarks of the Committee, that in regard to several appointment inquired into, the original documents could not be produced, having either been lost or abstracted, *Rep.* xi——Important documents have been either withdrawn or lost, and the loss of papers is not an unfrequent occurrence at the Admiralty, *ib.* xiv——In order to obviate the inconvenience of such loss an improved arrangement might be made, *ib.*——The papers relative to the recommendations of the dockyard officers at Woolwich to the Superintendent, of certain men for promotion, are not to be found; they were returned from the Surveyor's department to the Admiralty on the 7th May 1852, in the usual manner, *Sir B. Walker* 56-65. 148-155; *W. Eden* 264-273. 526-532——Reference to the documents referring to promotions which cannot be found; they were committed to the care of Mr. Eden, who wrote the minutes on the documents, *Sir B. Walker* 524, 525——With regard to the submissions of promotions, the documents that are lost were sent from witness's office to the Admiralty, and were acted upon the following day, *ib.* 652——Those documents ought to be in the record office of the Admiralty, but search has been made in that department without success, *ib.* 653-656.

With respect to the documents referred to by Sir B. Walker, relating to submissions of promotions, no note exists of them in the record office; they were never in witness's custody, *Barrow* 664-697——Opinion that there would be great difficulty in adopting any course for the discovery of the missing documents as to certain promotions referred to by Sir B. Walker, *Hay* 704, 705——Frequency of papers being lost at the Admiralty; witness has never been able to discover how to obviate this evil, *ib.* 712-716——Letter from the Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Seymour, Chairman of the Committee, dated 6 May 1853, stating that the original minute of 19 April 1853 cannot be found, *App.* 388.

Monthly Reports. Observations as to the recommendation contained in the circular of 27 February 1847, respecting dockyard management and promotions, that weekly and monthly notices should be made of all men in the yards; this only refers to the shipwrights' department, but it would be advantageous if it extended to the other men in the yards, *Richards* 2037-2040——Monthly reports made to the Admiralty by the superintendents of dockyards, showing the vacancies existing in the yard, *Seymour* 2407-2420; *H. Eden* 3341——Form of the monthly reports; these were sent through the Surveyor of the Navy, up to the time of issuing the circular of 19 April 1852, cancelling the former practice, when they were addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, *Seymour* 2417-2426.

Mortimore,

Report, 1852-53—*continued*.

Mortimore, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Serjeant in the marines, 2302—— Witness is orderly to Colonel Coryton; previous to the last election for Devonport, witness conveyed messages to several marines having votes for the borough, that Colonel Coryton desired their presence at his house, 2303-2323.

N.

Nasmyth's Hammers. Introduction of the Nasmyth's hammers into the dockyard smitheries in 1847 or 1848, *Sir B. Walker* 752, 753. 760, 761—— Opinion that neither Cotsell nor any of the smiths at Chatham thoroughly understand the use of Nasmyth's hammer, *Richards* 2187, 2188.——*see* also *Private Trade.*

Naval Officers. see *Officers of the Navy.*

Naval School. Remarks relative to the Naval School, and the removal of pupils from that institution to fill up vacancies in the dockyards, *Sir B. Walker* 65-74.

see also *Apprentices.*

Northumberland, His Grace the Duke of, K.G. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness entered into office on the 2d or 3d March 1852; previously to which he never held any situation in any department of the Government, 3094, 3095——Arrangement made as to the distribution of patronage among the Lords and Secretary of the Admiralty, 3096—— Witness transferred the whole of the patronage of the dockyard appointments to Mr. Stafford, excepting the master shipwrights and one class of messengers, 3097-3099—— With respect to the circular of 2 April 1852, issued by Mr. Stafford, cancelling the order of September 1849, witness was cognizant of it, but objected to interfere from want of experience, 3100-3118——Opinion that the only way of getting rid of the favouritism and Government influence in the dockyard appointments is by taking away the votes from the people employed in the dockyards, 3108—— Witness has no recollection of Admiral Parker having shewn him Sir B. Walker's letter tendering his resignation; it was not until November, when it was called for in the House of Commons, that witness knew that any letter of resignation had been sent in, 3119-3122. 3252-3255.

Interview Captain Richards had with witness, when he laid before him the circumstances relating to Ridgway, 3123-3127—— No imputation ever came before witness against Captain Richards that he had interfered in politics; witness expressed his conviction to Captain Richards that he was doing his duty honestly and honourably, 3128-3133 —— Circumstances under which the circular of 26 April 1852 was prepared and issued for the satisfaction of Sir B. Walker, as removing all slur which he considered cast upon his character by the circular of 19 April, 3135-3139—— Grounds on which witness sanctioned the reversal of the system that had existed in the Admiralty for many years, by the cancelling of the circular of 1849; 3140-3158. 3232——It was witness's intention that the Surveyor of the Admiralty should be consulted by the Secretary previous to any promotions taking place in the dockyards, 3159-3168.

With respect to the letter from the Surveyor, of 10 May 1852, witness did not consult any of the Lords of the Admiralty upon it, but considered it as a private letter, as making it public might be inconvenient to the service, 3169-3172——Observations upon the subject of Ridgway's case; his promotion, even for a temporary appointment, was in violation of the spirit of the circular of 1847; but as he was undergoing probation, witness considered he might remain till the end of the term, and then, if found incompetent, reduced, 3172-3180—— Witness pressed upon the Secretary to the Admiralty the importance of strictly adhering to the circular of 1847; if any appointments were made not in accordance with the regulations of 1847, they were made contrary to witness's sanction and intention, 3182, 3183——Reason why witness made no inquiry into the allegations contained in the Surveyor's letter of 10 May 1852; 3184——Neither Captain Richards' letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, nor the letter from the Admiralty to Captain Richards with respect to the case of William Groves, were ever brought under witness's consideration, 3185, 3186. 3190-3192.

In giving up the appointments to the Secretary, witness had no fear of political influence being used in the dockyards, 3187-3189—— Frequent remonstrances of Admiral Parker on the mode in which the promotions were going on in the dockyards; strong objections of Admiral Parker to the circular of 1849 having been rescinded; he had a strong feeling for the Surveyor of the Navy having the patronage, 3193-3198—— With regard to the appointment of Mr. Wells to Portsmouth, it was an irregularity of Admiral Parker, as it was not his appointment to make, but belonged to the Secretary, who appointed Mr. Cotsell; how far witness sanctioned the appointment of Cotsell, 3199-3208——Although it may be expedient to bring men into the dockyards from the private trade, still it inflicts an injustice on the men in the yards by interfering with the promotions, 3203-3205.

Witness never directed Mr. Stafford to visit Devonport in June 1852, but sees no harm in the Secretary making visits to the dockyards unaccompanied by the Lords of the

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Northumberland, His Grace the Duke of, K. G. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

Admiralty, 3209-3212. 3235-3242——The motion made in the House of Commons for correspondence coming before the Board of Admiralty created great surprise, as no correspondence upon the subject of the Surveyor's resignation was known to exist, 3213-3221——Witness invariably made all letters received from Sir B. Walker private, 3220, 3221——The original minute of 1849 is initialed by Sir Francis Baring; the circular of 19 April 1852 was not approved by witness nor any other Lord, 3222-3224——Witness was aware of the intention of Mr. Stafford to cancel the circular of 1849, but was not aware of the circular of 19 April having been issued until that of the 26 April came before the Board, 3225-3232.

Witness cautioned Mr. Stafford against interfering with the duties of the Surveyor, as witness could not permit the regulations to be broken, 3233, 3234——Although witness did not sanction the issuing of the minute of the 19 April, he saw no impropriety in its being issued, 3246-3251——Opinion that the intention of the circular of 1849 was to give the patronage of the dockyards to the Surveyor, 3256——Necessity for there being a consultation between the Secretary and the Surveyor constantly upon every subject of promotion in the dockyards, 3256-3259——Witness prefers the recommendations for promotions coming from the superintendents to the Secretary, to their going through the Surveyor to the Secretary, as was the practice under the circular of 1849; 3260-3270.

Northumberland, Duke of. The Duke of Northumberland communicated to witness the interview he had had with Captain Richards, in which he recommended Captain Richards in all future cases to come to him, *Stafford* 4010-4013——Witness made no arrangements whatever with the Duke of Northumberland respecting the transfer of the civil patronage of the Admiralty to the Secretary, but considered the Duke of Northumberland responsible for the administration of that department, *Earl of Derby* 4801.

See also *Circular of* 1849, 2. *Patronage. Promotion,* 2.

O.

Officers of the Navy. Interest taken by officers of the navy in election matters for which they do not go without their reward; instance of this, *Beer* 4692. 4835, 4836.

Ollis, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Conductor of the metal mills in Chatham Dockyard; has been in the public service since 1805; 1081-1086——Witness had no communication with Mr. Cotsell upon the subject of his appointment to Portsmouth, 1087-1091——How far political party feeling runs high at Chatham, independently of the Government yard, 1092-1096.

Oram, ——. Particulars as to the case of Oram, who was sent to Plymouth to learn the use of the planing machine; complaint of Birt of his having been displaced by Oram; opinion that Oram was the best man, *Seymour* 2661-3677.——*See* also *Birt, ——.*

Organist, Devonport Dockyard. Remarks relative to the appointment of an organist to the dockyard chapel at Devonport; the person recommended by witness was not appointed, but witness quite approves of the party that has been appointed, *Seymour* 2578-2581. 2641-2649. 2659, 2660. 2684. 2701-2704——The appointment of the organist was not a violation of the circular order of 1847, *ib.* 2701-2704.

P.

Page, ——. Reference to the case of —— Page, who was promoted at Chatham Dockyard without witness's recommendation, according to the circular of 1847, *Richards* 2125-2126.

Parker, Vice-Admiral Sir Hyde. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness has heard the evidence given by Sir Baldwin Walker, 274.——Witness received the letter of Sir Baldwin Walker of 21 April, tendering his resignation, which witness stated he should take to the First Lord before it came to the Board, to which Sir B. Walker made no objection, 275-279. 285——Witness saw the Duke of Northumberland upon the subject of Sir B. Walker's letter, who requested him to see Sir B. Walker and Mr. Stafford, and endeavour to make peace between them, 280-284. 287——Witness had an interview with Sir B. Walker and Mr. Stafford upon the subject of the letter of resignation, when the business was settled by the circular of the 22 April being agreed to; apparent satisfaction of Sir B. Walker with that circular; destruction of Sir B. Walker's letter by witness, the business connected therewith being entirely settled by the circular, 286-298. 449-454.

Sir B. Walker's letter tendering his resignation was never submitted to the Board 299-203——Complaints made to witness as to the promotions in the dockyards since they had ceased to pass through the hands of the Surveyor, 306-321——No complaints were

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Parker, Vice-Admiral Sir Hyde. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

were ever made at the Admiralty in regard to the mode of making promotions while they passed through the hands of the Surveyor; the Surveyor never used his patronage for any political purpose, 312–315. 417, 418——With respect to the letter of Sir B. Walker to the Duke of Northumberland of 10 May 1852, that letter was never read to witness, nor has witness ever had any conversation with the Duke of Northumberland respecting it, 322–324——Observations relative to the circular of the 19 April 1852, issued by Mr. Stafford, cancelling the circular of 1849; this circular was never brought before the Board, 325–360. 408.

Opinion as to the impropriety of the Secretary issuing a circular without the cognizance of the Board; the First Lord coincided with witness in this opinion, and regretted its having taken place, 328–360. 380, 381——With reference to the circular of 26 April 1852, it was issued entirely in consequence of the letter of resignation of the Surveyor; when this circular was under consideration at the Board of Admiralty, Sir B. Walker's resignation must also have been made the subject of consideration, 361–370. 376——Manner in which minutes are signed which are agreed to at the Board of Admiralty, 371–374——The circular of 19 April 1852, cancelling the order of 26 September 1849, was issued without witness's knowledge or approval, 375—— Although Sir B. Walker's letter of resignation was never formally brought before the Board, still the fact of his having tendered his resignation, must have been known to the Board, and to the Secretary, 377–379.

Dissatisfaction of witness with the appointments and promotions going on in the dockyards, as expressed by his letter of 25 August; opinion that political influence was interfering in a great degree with the proper course of promotion, 382–386—— Approval of the circular of 1847, with a view to the efficiency and economy of the dockyards, 387–395——The circular of 1849 was issued to carry out the circular of 1847 more efficiently; witness highly approved of the circular of 1849; 396–403——Witness expressed his disapproval of the issue of Mr. Stafford's circular to several members of the Board, 404–407——Grounds for the opinion expressed by witness in regard to the mode in which promotions were made, and the interference of political influence therewith, 409–418——Circumstances attending the appointment of Mr. Wells to be master smith at the Portsmouth Dockyard from the private trade; minute signed by witness approving of the submission of the Surveyor of the Navy in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells, 419–438. 455.

Remarks as to the permission given by witness to Sir B. Walker to read two letters to the Committee respecting the appointment of the master smith from Chatham to Portsmouth; witness never gave him permission to read the letter referring to the appointments in the dockyards, 439–444——(*Sir B. Walker*). Explanation as to the permission given to witness by Admiral Parker to read his letters to the Committee, including that referring to the appointments in the dockyards, 441–444——(*Sir H. Parker.*) Witness never had any conversation with Mr. Stafford upon the subject of Admiral Berkeley's motion for correspondence, and Mr. Stafford's reply that there was none, 445–447——It is the usual practice for men to be appointed six months on probation in any situation in the dockyards at a reduced salary, 456——When witness found that Cotsell was appointed, he remonstrated with Mr. Stafford, and also with the head of the Board by a private letter, 457–461.

Parker, Admiral. Frequent remonstrances of Admiral Parker on the mode in which the promotions were going on in the dockyards; strong objections of Admiral Parker to the circular of 1849 having been rescinded; he had a strong feeling for the Surveyor of the Navy having the patronage, *Duke of Northumberland* 3193–3198——Annoyance of Admiral Parker at the substitution of Cotsell for Wells as master smith at Portsmouth, *H. Eden* 3400-3405.

See also *Cotsell, Mr.*, 2. 3. *Government Pressure. Pomotions*, 3. *Resignation of the Surveyor. Wells, Mr.*, 1.

Parker, Mr. The same principles were carried out by Mr. Parker, while Secretary to the Admiralty, as were adopted by Sir Henry Ward, though they may not have been carried out so vigorously, *Sir F. Baring* 4769-4772——Had Sir Henry Ward remained at the Admiralty, he would not have acquiesced in the circular of 1849, whereas Mr. Parker surrendered it; high opinion expressed of Mr. Parker as a public servant, *Stafford* 4784.

Parkin, John. Circumstance attending the promotion of John Parkin as a leading man of stores at the Plymouth Victualling Yard, in preference to George Elms, recommended by witness; it was rumoured that political influence was made use of on this occasion, *Rich* 3553–3575.

Patronage. Remarks of the Committee on the evils resulting from the Duke of Northumberland having surrendered his patronage as First Lord of the Admiralty to the Secretary *Rep.* xii——Opinion of the Committee that in every branch of the Government the head

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Patronage—continued.

of the department must be held responsible for the system under which the patronage is distributed, *Rep.* xii——Reference to the passage read by witness to the House, conveying the impression that the Government which had been displaced from office had the design of retaining the patronage of the dockyards through the intervention of the system that they had arranged for the promotions; observations thereon, *Stafford* 1172-1177——In taking the patronage of the dockyards from Sir B. Walker, witness intended to satisfy his political friends by ascertaining that the whole of the promotions were not given to political opponents, *ib.* 1198-1206——Arrangements made as to the distribution of patronage among the Lords and Secretary, when witness commenced superintending the administration of the Admiralty, *Duke of Northumberland* 3096——Witness transferred the whole of the patronage of the dockyard appointments to Mr. Stafford, excepting the master shipwrights and one class of messengers, *ib.* 3097-3099.

On witness's first appointment to the Admiralty he made diligent inquiries with respect to the limits of his patronage; authorities consulted upon the subject, *Stafford* 4064-4069——One difficulty which witness experienced was that all his Parliamentary supporters represented that the patronage was entirely given hostile to the Government, *ib.* 4112-4116——Explanation as to the proposition with regard to patronage drawn up and signed by witness, and submitted to the Duke of Northumberland for his approbation; this paper was never given back to witness, and he considered it was not approved, *ib.* 4330-4345——Witness considers that the First Lord has the whole of the patronage of the Admiralty, if he chooses to exercise the right, but practically he distributes it, for convenience, *ib.* 4350-4363——The Government patronage in the dockyard at Devonport has been uniformly considered to be as much a share of patronage as the Treasury, the Post-office, and other departments; the party who have the power generally succeed in getting for their friends the appointments that occur, *Beer*, 4625, 4626.

See also *Admiralty, The. Appointments. Circular of* 1847. *Circular of* 1849, 1. *Distribution of Patronage. Elections. Government Influence. Labourers. Lords of the Admiralty. Parker, Admiral. Promotions. Sale of Patronage. Secretary to the Admiralty.*

Patronage Committees. There is no doubt that the influence of the borough is often brought to bear upon entries into the Chatham Yard; existence of patronage committees in Chatham and Rochester, *Richards*, 2219-2223——Witness has no doubt of the existence of a patronage committee at Devonport, who watch whatever opportunities occur for appointments in the yard; witness has no reason to believe that any parties employed in the yard are members of this committee, *Seymour* 2582-2585. 2641-2650——The patronage committee at Devonport is nothing more than a committee in connexion with the Member, who communicate with him, and to a certain extent look after his interest, *Beer* 4634. 4836. 4838——Explanation as to the patronage committee existing at Devonport, and the frequent application to witness for appointments, *Right Hon. H. Tufnell*, 4806, 4807.

Pelham, Captain the Hon. Frederick T., R.N. Was private secretary to the Duke of Northumberland, 650——Witness received a letter from Sir Baldwin Walker on the 10 May 1852, which he delivered to the Duke of Northumberland, 651.

Pennell, Charles Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Head of the Civil department in the Admiralty, 505, 506——When a minute is made by the Board which is intended to be communicated to the superintendents of the dockyards, it is usual to communicate it in the exact words of the minute; explanation as to the letter written to the Superintendents communicating the minute of 26 April 1852; how far the original wording of the minute was departed from, 507-523.

[Second Examination]. Particulars relative to the preparation of the circular of the 19 April 1852 in witness's department; letter forwarded to the Surveyor of the Navy acquainting him therewith, 3915-3938——After the preparation of any document in witness's department it is sent to the précis writer, and from him to the Record Office, 3918. 3937-3943.

[Third Examination]. The last general dockyard instructions were prepared in 1844; these do not contain any instructions for the five principal officers of the Civil department of the Admiralty, 4788-4790.——Code of instructions issued in 1844 to the five principal officers of the Civil department of the Admiralty; this was a modification of the regulations of 1833; 4791-4793——Letter of instructions written in 1848 to the Surveyor; how far these superseded the instructions under which he was previously acting, 4794-4797.

Piers, Octavius Barrington. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is in the department of the Admiralty connected with Parliamentary business, 953——Particulars as to the warrant appointing James Wells master smith at Portsmouth coming before Captain Hamilton for signature; Captain Hamilton declined to sign the warrant in the absence of Mr. Stafford, the minute of the appointment having been made by Admiral Parker, 954-959——Witness was desired to keep possession of those papers until the return of Mr. Stafford to the Admiralty, when he handed them over to him, 960-967.

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Piers, Octavius Barrington. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

[Second Examination.]—Communication made by witness to Mr. Cotsell, in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells; this communication was made entirely on witness's own responsibility, 1098–1105——Interview witness had with Mr. Cotsell at the Admiralty, upon the subject of the Portsmouth appointment; witness is confident Mr. Cotsell did not see Mr. Wells's appointment upon that occasion; this interview took place previous to Mr. Cotsell's appointment, 1103. 1106–1117.

Plymouth Dockyard. Return of all officers, men, apprentices, and boys ordered to be entered, promoted, and advanced in the Royal William Yard, between 1 March and 31 December 1852, specifying by what authority, with their several stations and ages, the dates of their respective entries, and showing, in cases of non-entry, whether owing to rejection or non-appearance, *App.* 376——Return of the names of all officers, men, apprentices, and boys recommended for promotion or advancement in the Royal William Yard, between 1 March and 31 December 1852, but who have been passed over in their order of merit, *ib.*

Plymouth Election. Particulars relative to witness being on the hustings at Plymouth, with Mr. Mare, on the nomination day, *Triscott* 2712–2721——Part taken by witness in conducting the late election for Plymouth, *Beer* 4706.

See also *Devonport Election.*

Plymouth Victualling Yard. Observations as to several men in the victualling yard having spoken to witness about their voting for the Conservative candidates; refusal of witness to make any promises to these voters, and advice given them to vote according to their consciences, *Triscott* 2931–2953——Witness has never been consulted with respect to promotions in the victualling yard, nor does he ever sign any recommendations, *ib.* 2996–2999. 3038–3051——Number of men on the victualling yard establishment at Plymouth, *Rich* 3531——There are a great many voters in the yard, but witness never interferes with the officers or men as regards their private privileges, *ib.* 3532, 3533——Way in which promotions are made in the victualling yard; the master attendant and storekeeper recommend men for promotion, *ib.* 3538. 3546, 3547——Witness never took any part in politics, *ib.* 3545.——*See* also *Apprentices.*

Political Influence:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Remarks as to the Pledge exacted by Sir Francis Baring from the Officers of Dockyards to abstain from interfering in Politics.*

1. *Generally:*

Observations of the Committee on the evil effects of even a few promotions in the dockyards being obtained through political influence, *Rep.* xi——Opinion that before the issue of the circular of 19 April 1852 no political influence had been used in making appointments or promotions in the dockyards, *Milne* 576-581——Refutation of the evidence of Mr. Stafford as to witness being one of the strongest political partizans in Chatham Dockyard, *Richards* 2021–2026——Circumstances which led to the supposition that political influence existed in Devonport Dockyard as to the promotions, *Seymour* 2396–2398——Letter from witness to Sir B. Walker, dated 27 April 1852, relative to the anticipated return to the corrupt and dishonest practices of the past, as to dockyard promotions; explanation thereof, *ib.* 2380, 2381——Rumours which led witness to make use of the words "Corrupt and dishonest practices of the past," in his letter to Sir B. Walker, of 27 April 1852, *ib.* 2399–2402——Witness considers it essential to the good discipline and working of the dockyards that everything that can warrant a suspicion that preferment will be the result, not of service, but of political favouritism, should be removed, *ib.* 2512, 2513——Importance of the situations of master shipwrights, master attendants, and storekeeper in the yards, as these officers recommend parties for promotion; any suspicion of political bias on their part is injurious to the fair working of the system in the yard, *ib.* 2547–2552——Strict injunctions issued in 1847 against any political interference of the superintendents or officers of the dockyards, *Beer* 4592——Looking at the last election and at former elections, witness does not think that the circular of 1847 had any effect in diminishing political influence in the Devonport dockyard, *ib.* 4652.

2. *Remarks as to the Pledge exacted by Sir Francis Baring from the Officers of Dockyards to abstain from interfering in Politics:*

Observations of the Committee as to the letter of Sir Francis Baring to the superintendents and principal officers of the dockyards, desiring their assurance to abstain from interfering in politics, *Rep.* iv——Pledge exacted by Sir Francis Baring from every one appointed or promoted in the dockyards, that political influence was not in any way to interfere with the public service, *Sir B. Walker* 210–214——Instructions given by Sir Francis Baring with reference to the non-interference with politics in the yards *Milne* 602–605; *Richards* 1918–1922; *Fanshawe* 2231–2234; *Triscott* 2954–2956

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Political Influence—continued.

2. *Remarks as to the Pledge exacted by Sir Francis Baring, &c.*—continued.

Hon. R. S. Dundas 3670—— Condition annexed to witness's acceptance of office by Sir James Graham, that politics were to form no point in recommendations, but that witness was to be guided by merit and proper conduct, *Martin* 1956——Witness never understood the letter of Sir F. Baring as relating to elections for Members of Parliamedt, but merely to local politics, as matters relating entirely to the town, *Triscott* 2966–2977 —— Witness does not consider that his intercourse with Major Beresford and Colonel Forester as any violation of the condition that he was not to interfere with local politics; local politics witness considered were limited to Devonport, *ib.* 2983–2995. 3034, 3035 —— Opinion that witness having been instrumental in returning Members to Parliament was no infringement of the letter received from Sir F. Baring, directing him to abstain from interfering in local politics, *ib.* 3037——Witness was appointed superintendent by Sir Francis Baring; he never received any directions to abstain from all political interference, *Rich* 3529, 3530—— Circumstances which induced witness to issue the letter to the superintendents and principal officers of the dockyards, strictly prohibiting them to interfere in any way with politics; opinion that they performed this engagement honourably, *Sir F. Baring* 4746–4748. 4751–4757.

See also *Baring, Sir Francis. Deptford Dockyard. Devonport Dockyard. Dockyard Voters. Edge, Mr. Elections. Government Influence. Patronage. Patronage Committees. Promotions,* 1. *Richards, Captain. Seymour, Commodore. Submissions of the Surveyor. Surveyor of the Navy,* 2. *Woolwich Dockyard.*

Portsmouth Dockyard. Circumstances under which witness was anxious to obtain the appointment of master smith at Portsmouth; there is no extra pay attached to the office at Portsmouth; it is the same as Chatham, *Cotsell* 1120–1122——Return of all officers, men, apprentices, and boys ordered to be entered, promoted, and advanced in the Royal Clarence Yard, Portsmouth, between 1 March and 31 December 1852; specifying by what authority, with their several stations and ages, the dates of their respective entries, and showing in cases of non-entry, whether owing to rejections or non-appearance, *App.* 375——Return of the names of all officers, men, apprentices, and boys recommended for promotion or advancement in the Royal Clarence Yard, between 1 March and 31 December 1852, but who have been passed over in their order of merit, *ib.* 376.

See also *Cotsell, Mr. Examination of Shipwrights. Private Trade. Wells, Mr.*

Private Trade. Opinion of the Committee that the expediency of introducing persons into the Government dockyards from the private trade, and thereby stopping the usual course of promotions, must depend on the special circumstances of the case, *Rep.* xiii ——Advantage which has resulted from the introduction of men from the private trade into some of the yards, *ib.*——The right of promotion according to merit in the dockyards has not been interfered with by the appointment of master smith from the private trade, *Sir B. Walker* 759——Steps taken by witness to select a competent person from the private trade to fill the office of master smith at Portsmouth, *ib.* 767——Master smiths from private yards having been successfully introduced at Woolwich and Devonport, witness saw no objection to a like appointment to Portsmouth, *ib.* 800——Witness does not consider that the regulations of 1847, providing that men who were once in the service should rise by merit alone, were infringed by the introduction of persons from private yards, *ib.* 802–808——Great advantage to the public service from the introduction of men from the private trade into the dockyards; improvement in the Woolwich smithery since the appointment of Mr. Black, *Sir B. Walker* 866–868; *H. Eden* 3383–3399—— Witness denies that it was decided by the Lords of the Admiralty that a man should be taken from a private yard for Portsmouth; there is no record of it in the books, *Stafford* 1853, 1854.

Superior skill of the men in the private trade to those in the dockyards, more particularly in the use of Nasmyth's hammer, *Richards* 2082–2084——Opinion that the circular of 1847, limiting promotions to men in the yards, should not be taken as an objection to appointments from the private trade, when advantage would result to the service from such appointments, *ib.* 2085——Opinion that it is desirable for the good of the service to introduce men from the private yards into the Government yards, such as in the case of the master smith at Devonport, although to a certain extent it may interfere with the promotions, *Seymour* 2655–2658——Opinion that the introduction of persons from the private trade into the dockyards is an injustice to the men on the establishment, *Duke of Northumberland* 3203–3205; *Fincham* 3877–3885——Both at Portsmouth and at Chatham witness considered that the smitheries might be put under a person from the private trade with advantage, *H. Eden* 3406–3408——No advantage to the smitheries is likely to result from the employment of men from the private trade, *Fincham* 3878–3885 ——The majority of the Board of Admiralty held a strong opinion opposed to the appointment of men from the private trade as being detrimental and unjust to the old dockyard servants, *Hon. A. Duncombe* 4461–4465——Remarks as to the Committee sent by the First Lord of the Admiralty to examine into the improvements existing in the private

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Private Trade—continued.

private yards; from some informality that committee did not proseccute its inquiries, or make any report, *Hon. A. Duncombe* 4465–4468.

See also *Ainslie, Mr.* *Black, Mr. George.* *Chatham Dockyard.* *Smitheries.* *Wages.* *Wells, Mr.* *Woolwich Dockyard.*

Probationary Appointments. It is the usual practice for men to be appointed six months on probation in any situation in the dockyards at a reduced salary, *Sir H. Parker* 1456.

Promotions:

1. *Generally.*
2. *Observations as to the Letter of the Surveyor of* 10 *May* 1852, *relative to unjust Promotions in the Dockyards.*
3. *How far there is any Objection to Parties holding inferior Offices being Promoted to high Offices in the same Yard.*
4. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

1. *Generally:*

Observations of the Committee on the private letter of Mr. Stafford to Sir B. Walker of 2d April 1852, wherein he adverts to the great dissatisfaction felt by his political friends as to the arrangement of appointments and promotions in the dockyards, and Sir B. Walker's reply thereto, *Rep.* v——Opinion of the Committee, that an impartial system of advancement must be productive of industry and therefore of economy, *ib.* xiv —— Such a system may be enforced if the Board of Admiralty persevere in its maintenance, and if having appointed fit persons as superintendents, they direct them vigilantly to watch those whose fair co-operation can alone insure justice to candidates for promotion, *ib.*——Opinion that for the purpose of securing a proper system of promotions in the dockyards, it may fairly be required, that if the system under which these promotions are now again regulated, should be hereafter altered or modified, the information should be laid before Parliament as soon as an opportunity may be afforded for such communication, *ib.*

No promotions took place in the dockyards from the date when Mr. Stafford first came to the Admiralty, up to the 2d April, when he wrote to witness of the dissatisfaction, as to the arrangement of appointments and promotions; the only promotion was of a person in a lower grade at Woolwich, made and approved by Mr. Stafford himself, *Sir B. Walker* 8–13—— Manner in which promotions are made in the dockyards, *ib.* 32–55; *Grant* 1335——The efficiency and economy of the dockyards depends in a great measure upon the arrangements as to promotions, *Sir B. Walker* 206–209—— Complaints made to witness as to the promotions in the dockyards since they had ceased to pass through the hands of the Surveyor, *Sir H. Parker* 306–321—— Dissatisfaction of witness with the appointments and promotions going on in the dockyards, as expressed by his letter of 25 August; opinion that political influence was interfering in a great degree with the proper course of promotion in the dockyards, *ib.* 382-386. 409–418—— With regard to the promotions in the upper branches of the dockyard service, they belong to the first Lord of the Admiralty; the minor promotions have been generally vested in the Secretary, *Milne* 535, 536——Letter written by witness to Sir B. Walker, dated 2 April 1852, with respect to the dissatisfaction of his political friends with the existing arrangements of appointments and promotions in the dockyards, and referring to the resumption of the system which existed previous to September 1849; circumstances under which that letter was written, *Stafford* 1135—— Reply received to that letter, dated 3 April, stating the impossibility of advancement taking place upon political grounds, under the circular of 1847, but stating the great saving that had been effected under the circular of 1849, *ib.* 1136, 1137.

Observations on witness's letter of 2d April, to Sir B. Walker, in which he referred to an impression that the appointments and promotions were given to political opponents of the Government; grounds for that impression, *Stafford* 1142–1171. 1209–1214—— Great number of promotions made by witness in the dockyards between 3d March and the 2d April; these promotions came to witness passing through the office of the Surveyor, *ib.* 1159–1161. 1198, 1199—— Evidence generally with respect to certain appointments and promotions made by the Secretary, which were considered unjust by Sir B. Walker; remarks of Sir B. Walker, objecting to certain recommendations for promotions; reasons why the objections were not attended to, *Stafford & Grant* 1335–1366—— It is usual for all papers relating to appointments and promotions to pass through witness's hands; usual course of proceeding with respect to the selection of names by the Secretary for promotion, *Grant* 1664–1678—— Interview witness had with the Duke of Northumberland, as to the evils likely to arise from improper promotions being made in the dockyards; concurrence of his Grace in witness's views, *Richards* 2007–2020—— With regard to the names sent up to the Admiralty for selection for promotion, the ages are not stated; how far this would be any advantage; looking to the economy, and to the efficiency of the public service, the age of the person is an element for consideration, *ib.* 2128–2132——Witness

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PROMOTIONS—continued.

1. *Generally*—continued.

denies ever having had any conversation with Mr. Stafford, or with any person who held office under the late Government, respecting the promotions in the dockyards; witness has never in any way been brought to consider the question as to appointments and promotions either in the navy or in the dockyards, *Right Hon. B. Disraeli* 4070–4085.

2. *Observations as to the Letter of the Surveyor, of* 10 *May* 1852, *relative to unjust Promotions in the Dockyards:*

Remarks of the Committee on the letter of Sir B. Walker to the Duke of Northumberland, of 10 May 1852, with respect to unjust promotions in the dockyards; this was considered a private letter by his Grace, and no reply was sent thereto, *Rep.* xi——Various cases adduced by Sir B. Walker in justification of this letter; explanation of Mr. Stafford upon the subject of these promotions, which he considered first entries, *ib.*—— In consequence of unjust promotions being made in the dockyards, and the circular of February 1847 not being adhered to, witness wrote to the First Lord of the Admiralty, dated 10 May 1852, pointing out the evils of the system pursued with respect to appointments and promotions in the dockyards; as also the position of the Surveyor of the Navy; no reply was received to that letter, *Sir B. Walker* 4. 28. 110. 237–239 ——Grounds on which witness stated that unjust promotions were made in the dockyards, in his letter to the Duke of Northumberland, of 10 May 1852; various instances of unjust promotions cited, *ib.* 28–124——Witness's letter of the 10th May 1852 to the First Lord of the Admiralty was delivered through Captain Pelham, his private secretary, *ib.* 104–111. 237–239——Approval by Admiral Parker of Witness's letter, of the 10th May 1852, to the Duke of Northumberland, *ib.* 188, 189.

With respect of the letter of Sir B. Walker to the Duke of Northumberland, of the 10 May 1852, that letter was never read to witness, nor has witness ever had any conversation with the Duke respecting that letter, *Sir H. Parker* 322–324——Witness was not aware of the letter written by Sir B. Walker to the First Lord of the Admiralty on 10 May 1852 until some time afterwards; that letter was never, to witness's knowledge, brought before the Board, *Milne* 582–587——Witness received a letter from Sir Baldwin Walker on the 10th May 1852, which he delivered to the Duke of Northumberland, *Hon. F. J. Pelham* 651——With reference to the letter of Sir B. Walker to the Duke of Northumberland, of 10 May 1852, his Grace determined to make the letter a private one, and witness's intercourse with his Grace in explaining the promotions objected to were strictly confidential, *Stafford* 1402–1422——With respect to the letter from the Surveyor, of 10 May 1852, witness did not consult any of the Lords of the Admiralty upon it, but considered it as a private letter, as making it public might be inconvenient to the service, *Duke of Northumberland* 3169–3172——Reason why witness made no inquiry into the allegations contained in the Surveyor's letter of 10 May 1852, *ib.* 3184.

3. *How far there is any Objection to Parties holding inferior Offices being promoted to high Offices in the same Yard:*

Objection of Admiral Parker to Cotsell's appointment, he having held an inferior office at Portsmouth; it is the general rule that men who have performed duty in any junior grade should not hold a principal office in the same yard, *Sir B. Walker* 852. 1451, 1452. 1466–1468——It was the opinion of the Committee of Revision that it was objectionable to put a man in a higher station in a yard where he had acted in an inferior grade; this rule has been acted upon by the Admiralty whenever it has been possible; the same rule is observed as to appointments in ships, *ib.* 1477–1486—— As a general principle witness considers that an individual that has held an inferior office in a yard should not be advanced to a superior office in the same yard, *Seymour* 2553–2559——Opinion that no injury is likely to arise to the service from persons who have held inferior offices in a dockyard being promoted to a high office in the same yard, *Fincham* 3886–3889; *Hon. A. Duncombe* 4490, 4491.

4. *Papers laid before the Committee:*

Letter from Sir B. Walker to his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, dated 10 May 1852, relative to the unjust promotions taking place in the dockyards, *App.* 361—— Return of the several appointments and promotions (of salaried officers) which took place in the several dockyards and victualling yards, during the years 1851 and 1852, specifying the months in which the appointments and promotions were made; and in every case of promotion or advancement specifying upon whose recommendation the same were made, omitting clerks and others not advanced from the line of artificers, *ib.* 373. 374.

See also *Appointments. Board of Admiralty. Circular of* 1847. *Committee of Revision. Devonport Dockyard. Government Pressure. Labourers. Missing Documents. Parker, Admiral. Patronage. Political Influence,* 1. *Private Trade. Ridgway, Joseph. Sale of Patronage. Shipwrights. Submissions of the Surveyor. Surveyor of the Navy,* 1.

R.

Recommendations of Superintendents. Remarks of the Committee as to how far the principal officers, and their assistants in the dockyards, who conducted the examinations and recommended the names to the superintendent, invariably perform their duty with care and impartiality; conflicting evidence on this point, *Rep.* ix——Statement of the Committee that, in the majority of cases, after cancelling the circular of 1849, Mr. Stafford appears to have followed the recommendations of the superintendents, *ib.* xi——After the circular of the 19 April 1852, recommendations for promotions came direct to the Secretary of the Admiralty; the Surveyor of the Navy had no opportunity of giving an opinion upon those appointments; that was the actual course pursued until the cancelling of Mr. Stafford's circular, *Hay* 723-734——Opinion that the recommendations of the superintendents were generally fairly attended to, *Richards* 2099, 2100; *Seymour* 2365-2368; *H. Eden* 3291-3296; *Rich* 3553; *Fincham* 3861, 3862——Witness prefers the recommendations for promotions coming from the superintendents to the Secretary, to their going through the Surveyor to the Secretary, as was the practice under the circular of 1849, *Duke of Northumberland* 3260-3270——Observations as to certain cases of promotion in 1852, when witness's recommendations were not attended to, and certain men promoted whose term of service was much below that of the parties passed over, *H. Eden* 3297-3327. 3330-3334. 3370-3378——Previous to the circular of the 19 April 1852, the submissions for promotions were sent to the Surveyor of the Navy; since that time they have been sent to the Secretary of the Admiralty, *Sir B. Walker* 3520-3523; *Hon. R. S. Dundas* 3619-3625.

Since the issue of the circular of 19 April 1852, two or three circumstances have occurred as to promotions in the victualling yard, in which witness's recommendations have not been attended to with fairness; particulars of certain promotions made contrary to witness's recommendations, *Hon. R. S. Dundas* 3626-3648——Observations generally upon the complaints of the Superintendent of the Chatham Dockyard of his recommendations for promotions being passed over, and other parties promoted and appointed; explanation as to why witness did not closely attend to these recommendations, *Stafford* 4183-4226——The misunderstanding arose from a want of proper communication with Captain Richards, and would all have been remedied if Captain Richards had availed himself of the Duke of Northumberland's special individual invitation, *ib.* 4274-4276——Previously to the circular of 1849, all recommendations sent up from the superintendents of the dockyards to the Admiralty were forwarded from the Admiralty to the Surveyor for his remarks, *Sir F. Baring* 4733, 4734——Complaints were occasionally made that the recommendations that came up from the principal officers of the yards, and sent through the superintendents, were not fair towards the men, *ib.* 4744, 4745——The circular of 1849 being reverted to, the submissions from the superintendents are now sent to witness, and forwarded with his submissions to the Admiralty, *Sir B. Walker* 4852-4854——Letters from Sir B. W. Walker, dated 5 and 20 September 1849, with respect to the recommendations of superintendents being transmitted direct to the Surveyor's department, *App.* 359.

See also *Monthly Reports.* *Promotions,* 1. *Superintendents of Dockyards.*

Record Office, Admiralty. Detail of the manner in which documents are received and arranged in the record office of the Admiralty; notes are always made of all papers taken out of the office for the Lords of the Admiralty or others, *Barrow* 667-676. 681-685——Frequency of papers being sent for from the record office, which have been misplaced, so that they could not be found when wanted, *ib.* 686-690.

See also *Admiralty, The.* *Correspondence.* *Missing Documents.*

Regulations. Suggestions of witness as to the issue of a new code of regulations for the dockyards; witness believes that the new dockyard regulations, which have been issued since the present Board came into office, are founded upon those suggestions, *Stafford* 4163-4173.

Resignation of the Surveyor. Observations generally of the Committee upon the subject of the letter of Sir B. Walker, of 21 April 1852, addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, tendering his resignation, *Rep.* ix-xii——The letter was read to Admiral Parker, the immediate head of the Surveyor's department, who undertook to deliver it to the First Lord, *ib.* x——Interviews which took place at the Admiralty upon the subject of Sir B. Walker's letter, tendering his resignation, *Rep.* x; *Sir B. Walker* 4418-4421——After the passing of the circular of 26 April 1852, Admiral Parker destroyed Sir B. Walker's letter of resignation, *Rep.* x——Sir B. Walker's letter, although addressed to the late Secretary, was never delivered to him, and, consequently, he is in no way responsible for the act of withholding that letter from the Board, *ib.* x——Circumstances under which witness wrote to Mr. Stafford, the Secretary of the Admiralty, a letter, dated 21 April 1852, tendering his resignation *Sir B. Walker* 2, *et seq.*——Copy of witness's letter, dated

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Resignation of the Surveyor—continued.

dated 21 April 1852, *Sir B. Walker* 3, and *App.* 360——Witness read his letter of the 21st April 1852 to Vice-Admiral Parker, who took the same, and said he would bring it before the Board, *Sir B. Walker* 3.

Witness had no idea that his letter of the 21 April 1852 had not been officially brought forward; witness never authorised its destruction or withdrawal, and considered that it had been before the Board, and was a record, *Sir B. Walker* 4——Observation of Admiral Parker, that he did not think witness's letter, tendering his resignation, had been brought before the Board, and that his impression was, that it had been destroyed, *ib.* 6——Reasons why witness took no further steps in the matter, on his not receiving any reply from the Board, accepting his tendered resignation; witness considered the official communication of 28 April, stating that no imputation was intended to be cast upon his character, as an answer, *ib.* 19–27. 182–187——After witness had tendered his resignation, and received the circular which cleared his character of all imputation, he continued to fulfil the duties of his office, being perfectly satisfied that such official circular issued by the Board was in answer to his letter, *ib.* 199–206——Interview witness had with the Duke of Northumberland on the 29th November, with reference to his letter tendering his resignation, when his Grace appeared to have no knowledge of the existence of such a document; witness had reason to believe that the letter had been brought under the notice of his Grace by Admiral Parker, *ib.* 225–236——Witness received the letter of Sir B. Walker, of 21 April, tendering his resignation, which witness stated he should take to the First Lord before it came to the Board, to which Sir B. Walker made no objection, *Sir H. Parker* 275–279. 285——Witness saw the Duke of Northumberland upon the subject of Sir B. Walker's letter, who requested witness to see Sir B. Walker and Mr. Stafford, and endeavour to make peace, and settle the matter, *ib.* 280–284. 287——Witness had an interview with Sir B. Walker and Mr. Stafford upon the subject of the letter of resignation, when the business was settled by the circular of the 26th April being agreed to; apparent satisfaction of Sir B. Walker with the circular; destruction of Sir B. Walker's letter by witness, the business connected therewith being entirely settled by the circular, *ib.* 286–298. 449–454.

Sir B. Walker's letter, tendering his resignation, was never submitted to the Board, *Sir H. Parker* 299–303; *Stafford* 1261–1265——Although Sir B. Walker's letter of resignation was never formally brought before the Board, still the fact of his having tendered his resignation must have been known to the Board and to the Secretary, *Sir H Parker* 377–379——With reference to Sir B. Walker's letter of the 21st April, that letter never reached witness, and if there is any complaint of its not reaching the Board, the fault does not rest with him, *Stafford* 1239——At the interview between Sir B. Walker, Admiral Parker, and witness on the 26th April, the letter of Sir B. Walker was discussed as far as related to the subject of the imputation and the circular to the dockyards, but it did not involve the question of resignation, *ib.* 1258–1260. 1266–1270——Witness has no recollection of Admiral Parker having shown him Sir B. Walker's letter tendering his resignation; it was not until November, when it was called for in the House of Commons, that witness knew any letter of resignation had been sent in, *Duke of Northumberland* 3119–3122. 3252–3255——Witness has a perfect recollection of the interview he had with Admiral Parker and Mr. Stafford, when the former had witness's letter of resignation in his hand; the purport of that letter was the subject of conversation, *Sir B. Walker* 3904–3909——Witness sent his letter of 21 April to the Admiralty through Admiral Parker; witness's full impression was that the letter would be laid before the Board as a *bonâ fide* tender of resignation, *ib.* 4422–4434——Correspondence between the Board of Admiralty and the Surveyor of the Navy, during the year 1852, in reference to the resignation of his office, *App.* 362.

See also *Circular of* 1852.

Retirements. See *Compulsory Retirements.* *Superannuations.*

Rich, Admiral George Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was Superintendent of the Victualling Yard at Plymouth, from February 1850 until April 1853; 3526–3528——Witness was appointed superintendent by Sir Francis Baring; he never received any directions to abstain from all political interference, 3529, 3530——Number of men on the Victualling Yard establishment, 3531——There are a great many voters in the yard, but witness never interferes with the officers or men as regards their private privileges, 3532, 3533——Way in which promotions are made in the Victualling Yard, 3534–3538. 3546, 3547——Caution of Mr. Triscott by witness respecting political interference, in consequence of the existence of strong rumours; denial by Mr. Triscott of having taken any part in the election, 3539–3541. 3548——Witness is convinced that Mr. Armstrong took no part whatever in politics, 3542–3544——Witness never took any part in politics, 3545.

Opinion that it is very desirable that the men in the dockyards should not have the power of voting, 4549–3552——Generally speaking, witness's submissions for promotions made to the Admiralty have been adopted, 3553——Circumstance attending the promotion of John Parkin as a leading man of stores, in preference to George Elms, recommended

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Rich, Admiral George Frederick. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

mended by witness; it was rumoured that political influence was made use of on this occasion, 3553-3575——The Surveyor of the Navy has no control whatever in the Victualling Yards, 3562——Promotion of Algernon Wotton from second-class leading man of storehouses at Plymouth to superintendent of watering-place at Bovisand; witness never sent up his name or recommended him to the Admiralty, 3576-3579——Promotion of William Hawkins from a labourer to police constable; this promotion took place in the regular way, 3580-3585——Observations with respect to the transfer of certain extra men to the permanent establishment of the Victualling Yard; the whole of the parties transferred met with witness's approbation, 3586, 3587.

Richards, Captain Peter. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Superintendent of the dockyard at Chatham; was appointed under Sir Francis Baring's Board; was previously superintendent at Pembroke, 1907-1917——On witness's appointment as superintendent at Chatham, he received directions from Sir Francis Baring not in any way to meddle with politics, 1918-1922——Strong political feeling existing among the people at Chatham, 1923——With regard to the circular of 1849, witness considered that circular very desirable; from the time of its issue up to April 1852, it was rigidly followed, 1924-1932. 1936——Cancelling the circular of 1849, which gave the Surveyor of the Navy the means of controlling the appointments, was injurious to the service of the dockyard, 1933-1936——Observations generally with respect to the promotion of Joseph Ridgway in the metal mills at Chatham; report of witness as to the incompetency of Ridgway, and recommending the appointment of a man from the private trade; correspondence with Mr. Stafford upon the subject, 1936-1953.

[Second Examination.]—Evidence generally with respect to Ridgway's appointment; nature of the evils likely to arise from this promotion; correspondence upon the subject; denial that political influences were at work against Ridgway, 1989-2018——How far the removal of extra or hired labourers to the establishment comes within the rule laid down for promotion; correspondence with Admiral Parker upon the subject, 2005, 2006——Interview witness had with the Duke of Northumberland as to the evils likely to arise from improper promotions being made in the dockyards; concurrence of his Grace in witness's views, 2007-2020——Refutation of the evidence of Mr. Stafford as to witness being one of the strongest political partisans in Chatham Yard, 2021-2026.

In witness's interview with the Duke of Northumberland he stated the case of Ridgway, and the circumstances that had taken place respecting him in the time of Sir F. Baring, 2027, 2028——The qualification or disqualification of Ridgway depended upon the knowledge of the chief engineer, Mr. Laurie; opinion that Mr. Laurie took no part in politics, 2029-2035——Report of witness to the Admiralty in March 1853, as to the incompetency of Ridgway as conductor of the metal mills; this report was founded upon that of the chief engineer; removal of Ridgway from the situation on account of incapacity, 2036. 2040-2050——Observations as to the recommendation contained in the circular of 27 February 1847 respecting dockyard management and promotions, that weekly and monthly notices should be made of all men in the yards; this only refers to the shipwrights' department, but it would be an advantage if it was extended to the other men in the yards, 2037-2040.

Witness considers that the promotion of Ridgway was an entire departure from the system introduced by the circular of 1847; 2051-2055——With respect to witness's appointment as superintendent of Chatham Yard, it was not received through any political application; letter from Sir F. Baring, dated 26 April 1849, offering witness the appointment, 2059, 2060——Witness was appointed to Pembroke Dockyard by Lord Auckland; his appointment was not obtained through any political interest, 2061, 2062——Evidence generally with respect to the promotion of William Groves from furnaceman to forgeman at Chatham; reports of the officers of the yard as to his incompetency; correspondence upon the subject of his promotion, 2063-2078.

Submission of witness to the Admiralty, dated 17 September 1851, announcing the vacancy for a forgeman at Chatham; also the incompetency of any of the men in the yard to fill the office, and recommending an entry from the private trade, 2063-2065——Reply from the Admiralty, dated 6 October 1851, authorising witness to fill up the vacancy from the private trade, 2066——Great difficulty experienced in filling the office from the private trade; appointment of Matthew Fowler to the situation, who was discharged on Groves' appointment, 2066. 2069-2078——It is not the practice in the dockyards to employ task-work, the objection being the waste of materials, 2078-2081——Superior skill of the men in the private trade to those in the dockyards, more particularly in the use of Nasmyth's hammer, 2082-2084——Opinion that the circular of 1847, limiting promotions to men in the yards, should not be taken as an objection to appointments from the private trade, when advantage would result to the service from such appointments, 2085.

Explanation as to the probationary promotion of Edward Atkinson, as fireman at Chatham; this promotion took place without the recommendation of any officer in the yard; reports as to the ineligibility of Atkinson after probation; letter from the Admiralty, directing his return to his former position as hammer-man, 2086-2097——Appoint-

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Richards, Captain Peter. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

ment of John Butler to the vacancy of fireman at Chatham, he being proved the best man in the yard, 2097, 2098——With regard to witness's suggestions as to promotions, there is no doubt that in the majority of cases his recommendations were attended to, 2099, 2100——Promotion of George Rule to be a workman at the metal-mills at Chatham, in opposition to witness's recommendation; he having recommended William Bacon, a first class boy at the mills, for that position, 2101–2109.

Explanation with respect to the metal-mills, at Chatham; practice as to appointments and promotions; rate of pay of the men employed, 2102–2106——Particulars as to the case of Henry Bush, a labourer, who was promoted to a third class workman at the saw-mills at Chatham; this man was appointed, though witness submitted the names of Robert Rix and Horace Parnell, two men who were reduced sawyers when the establishments of the yard were reduced in 1849; 2110–2115——The preference of Bush over Rix and Parnell was contrary to the circular of 1847; 2114——Promotion of Thomas Charrison, a labourer, to be a workman in the Chatham metal-mills, without any recommendation from witness; this case was contrary to the circular of 1847; 2116–2120 ——Promotion of Valley to be a rigger at Chatham, without witness's recommendation, 2121–2123.

Case of the promotion of Samuel Ethell to the metal mills, without being recommended by the superintendent and the officers, 2124——Reference to the case of Page, who was promoted without witness's recommendation according to the circular of 1847; 2125, 2126——With regard to the names sent up to the Admiralty for selection for promotion, the ages are not stated; how far this would be any advantage, 2128–2132—— Examination and selection of boys for shipwrights' apprentices; all entries take place in January; advantage of this arrangement; order of the Board of Admiralty that there should be no entry of apprentices at Chatham during the year 1852; 2133–2150—— Opinion that witness's recommendations passing through the office of the Surveyor of the Navy, were never subject to any political motives, 2151, 2152——The number of men fixed as the establishment at Chatham is 1,604; there is also a fixed allowanceof extra men, 2153–2162.

Number of shipwright apprentices at Chatham out of their time in 1852; the establishment is now sixteen apprentices short, 2163–2166——Manner in which the extra men at the dockyards are appointed, 2167–2172——Remarks as to an order of the Admiralty for filling up the vacancies for apprentices at Chatham in January; the course adopted in previous years was not followed in the last year, 2173–2182——Witness is still of opinion that it is inconvenient for the public service that Groves should have been appointed, and should continue in his appointment, 2183–2186——Neither Cotsell nor any of the smiths at Chatham thoroughly understand the use of Nasmyth's hammer, 2187, 2188 ——Observations relative to Mr. Stafford's visit to Chatham Dockyard on 26 June 1852, in company with Sir Frederic Smith, 2189–2202——Witness did not previously to the general election receive any communication from any person connected with the Board of Admiralty, in reference to the election for the borough of Chatham, 2203.

Witness received a copy of the circular of 19 April 1852, cancelling the order of September 1849, and also a copy of the circular of 26 April 1852, correcting the previous circular, 2204–2206——The circular of February 1847 has not been strictly adhered to as to dockyard promotions since the cancelling of the order of September 1849; 2206 2207——The service would be very materially advantaged if the men employed in the dockyards were not allowed to vote at elections, 2208–2212——It was only through the proceedings of the Chatham Election Committee that witness became aware that any officer in the dockyard had been exercising any influence during the election, 2208. 2213–2215——It is notorious, that on all occasions since Chatham has been a borough, Government influence has been exercised at the elections, 2216——By the dockyard regulation of 1844, all canvassing in dockyards is strictly forbidden, 2217, 2218—— There is no doubt that the influence of the borough is often brought to bear upon entries into the yard; existence of patronage committees in Chatham and Rochester, 2219–2223.

Richards, Captain. No imputation ever came before witness against Captain Richards that he had interfered with politics; witness expressed his conviction to Captain Richards that he was doing his duty honestly and honourably, *Duke of Northumberland* 3128–3133——Grounds for the opinion that Captain Richards was the strongest political partisan of any of the superintendents of the dockyards, *Stafford* 3966–3981——Observation of Mr. Smith, M.P., to witness, that he considered the imputation of political motives to Captain Richards as unjust, *ib.* 4787.

See also *Recommendations of Superintendents.* *Ridgway, Joseph.*

Ridgway, Joseph. Remarks of the Committee on the appointment of Joseph Ridgway as leading man at the metal mills, Chatham, by Mr. Stafford, contrary to the recommendation of Captain Richards, the superintendent, *Rep.* vi, vii——Manner in which Mr. Stafford justifies himself as to this proceeding, *ib.* vii——Explanation with respect to the

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the appointment of Ridgway as first-class man at the metal mills at Chatham, in opposition to the report of the superintendent, which stated his incompetency for the office, *Sir B. Walker* 89-101. 119-124; *Stafford and Grant* 1367-1394; *Richards* 1936-1953——Letter from Captain Richards, superintendent of Chatham Dockyard, dated 9 April 1852, condemning the proposed promotion of Joseph Ridgway to be first-class man in the metal mills on account of his incompetency, *Sir B. Walker* 1129, 1130——The appointment of Ridgway was merely probationary for six months; he remained in the situation nine months, and incurred no censure, *Stafford* 1386-1393——Evidence as to the appointment of Joseph Ridgway as acting first-class man in the metal mills at Chatham, *Amedroz* 1493-1512; *Richards* 1989-2018——Correspondence with Mr. Stafford upon the subject of Ridgway's appointment, *Richards* 1936-1953.

Nature of the evils likely to arise from this promotion; denial that political influences were at work against Ridgway, *Richards* 1989-2018——In witness's interview with the Duke of Northumberland he stated the case of Ridgway, and the circumstances that had taken place respecting him in the time of Sir Francis Baring, *ib.* 2027, 2028——The qualification or disqualification of Ridgway depended upon the knowledge of Mr. Laurie, the chief engineer; high integrity of this officer; opinion that Mr. Laurie took no part in politics, *ib.* 2029-2035——Report of witness to the Admiralty in March 1853 as to the incompetency of Ridgway as conductor of the metal mills; this report was founded upon that of the chief engineer; removal of Ridgway from the situation on account of incapacity, *ib.* 2036. 2040-2050——The promotion of Ridgway was an entire departure from the system introduced by the circular of 1847, *ib.* 2051-2055; *Duke of Northumberland* 3172-3180——Interview Captain Richards had with witness, when he laid before him the circumstances relating to Ridgway, *Duke of Northumberland* 3123-3127.

With regard to the vacancy caused by the removal of Ridgway, the superintendent has been ordered to select a competent person from the private trade for the metal mills, *Sir B. Walker* 3504, 3505——Remarks generally with respect to Ridgway's case; this was one of the cases which led to the issue of the circular of 19 April, *Stafford* 3958, 3966. 3998, 3999——The letter from Captain Richards to witness upon the subject of Ridgway's application to Sir Francis Baring was subsequent to Ridgway's appointment, *ib.* 3959-3961——Witness does not consider that the appointment of Ridgway was a violation of the orders of 1847, *ib.* 3961——Reason why witness did not withhold the appointment of Ridgway when he was made acquainted with the fact of its being obtained by political influence by Captain Richards, *ib.* 3982-3997——Correspondence relative to the promotion of J. Ridgway as first class leading man at the metal mills, Chatham, *App.* 380, 381.

Rule, George. Remarks relative to the promotion of George Rule to be a workman at the metal mills at Chatham; this was in opposition to witness's recommendation; he having recommended William Bacon, a first class boy at the mills, for that position, *Richards* 2101-2109——With reference to the appointment of George Rule witness did not consider himself bound to follow the recommendation of Captain Richards, as he looked upon it as a first entry, *Stafford* 4042. 4181-4083.

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Salaries of Officers. Opinion that the salary of a person appointed to a situation in the dockyard commences from the date of his letter of appointment, *H. Eden* 3283-3285.

Sale of Patronage. Witness has heard the report that the dockyard patronage has been the subject of sale, and has not the slightest doubt of it, *Beer* 4655-4659——Remarks as to an anonymous communication received by witness respecting the sale of promotions in Devonport Yard; inquiry instituted, when nothing could be brought forward to prove the accusation, *Sir F. Baring* 4749, 4750—— Reports circulated of the sale of patronage in Devonport Dockyard; inquiry instituted upon one occasion, when the party making the charge immediately retracted and apologised, *Right Hon. H. Tufnell* 4832.

Sawyers. Observations with respect to the appointment of certain labourers as sawyers in Devonport Dockyard by Mr. Stafford; the letter from the superintendent merely stated there were vacancies for sawyers, and the Secretary might have thought it a fair occasion in which to exercise his patronage, *Grant* 1325-1334——Observations with respect to the promotion of certain labourers to be sawyers at Devonport by the Admiralty, without any recommendation from the superintendent, and contrary to the circular of 1847, *Seymour* 2370-2394. 2508-2515; *Beer* 4688-4691——Employment of labourers as sawyers in Devonport Yard for temporary purposes; how far this gives them a claim to vacancies for permanent sawyers, *Seymour* 2427-2477——Observations with respect to vacancies of sawyers and labourers filled up in the Devonport Yard by the Admiralty, which were not considered necessary by witness, *ib.* 2685-2688——It is witness's impression that some of the men nominated by the Admiralty without consulting witness were voters, and the rest were relations of voters outside the yard, *ib.* 2697-2699.

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Scott, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Relieving officer of the Medway Union; resides at Chatham, 1049-1051——Statement made to witness by Mr. Cotsell, that with regard to his visit to the Admiralty upon the subject of the Portsmouth appointment, he was just in time to prevent the signature of Mr. Wells' appointment and secure his own, 1051-1060. 1079, 1080——Witness never saw Mr. Cotsell engaged in the canvass of electors at Chatham, 1061, 1062——With regard to the Chatham election, on almost every occasion the Government candidate has prevailed; this is greatly attributable to the exercise of Government influence, 1063-1079.

Secretary to the Admiralty. Remarks of the Committee, that the Duke of Northumberland as soon as he accepted office gave up to the Secretary all the civil patronage excepting the master shipwrights and one class of messengers, *Rep.* v——Statement as to the patronage possessed by the Secretary of the Admiralty, *Milne* 588, 589——Witness considers that almost all the dockyard appointments were in his hands, the First Lord having given them over to him, *Stafford* 1793-1800——In giving up the appointments to the Secretary, witness had no fear of political influence being used in the dockyards, *Duke of Northumberland* 3187-3189——Witness never directed Mr. Stafford to visit Devonport in June 1852, but sees no harm in the Secretary making visits to the dockyards unaccompanied by the Lords of the Admiralty, *ib.* 3209-3212. 3235-3242——It is the usual practice for the Secretary to write all letters as being by the Board's order, although the subject may not have been brought before their Lordships, *Amedroz* 1780-1788; *Sir T. Herbert* 3764-3773; *Stafford* 4016-4020——Immediately on the Duke of Northumberland taking office, witness was appointed Secretary to the Board, and entered upon his duties directly, *Stafford* 4258-4260——Superintending discretion exercised by the Secretary over the recommendations for the small appointments, *Sir F. Baring* 4739-4743.

See also *Appointments. Board of Admiralty. Instructions to Officers. Minutes of the Board of Admiralty. Patronage. Recommendations of Superintendents. Surveyor of the Navy,* 1.

Seymour, Commodore Michael, R. N. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Superintendent of Devonport Dockyard; was appointed in September 1851; was previously superintendent at Sheerness, 2353-2358——Witness was appointed superintendent of Sheerness Dockyard by Sir Francis Baring; letter from Sir F. Baring, dated 11th November 1850, offering witness the appointment; the appointment was not the result of any political application, 2359-2361——Letter from Sir F. Baring to witness, dated 26 August 1851, appointing him superintendent of Devonport Dockyard, 2361-2364——With reference to witness's recommendations for promotions sent through the Surveyor of the Navy, witness is satisfied they were treated fairly, 2365-2368——Observations with respect to the promotion of certain labourers to be sawyers at Devonport by the Admiralty without any recommendation from the superintendent, and contrary to the circular of 1847; 2370-2394.

Communication received by witness from the Admiralty, overthrowing the system by which everything went through the Surveyor, and a second letter stating that it had no reference to him personally, casting no imputation upon him; how far witness had any communication with Admiral Parker upon the subject of these circulars, 2382. 2395, 2396——Circumstances which led to the supposition that political influence existed in Devonport Dockyard as to the promotions, 2396-2398——Letter from witness to Sir B. Walker, dated 27 April 1852, relative to the anticipated return to the corrupt and dishonest practices of the past as to dockyard promotions; explanation thereof, 2380, 2381.

[Second Examination.]—Remarks as to the rumours which led witness to make use of the words "corrupt and dishonest practices of the past," in his letter to Sir B. Walker of 27 April 1852; 2399-2402——The total number of men upon the establishment at Devonport is 2,089; number of extra labourers not on the establishment, 2403-2406——Monthly reports made to the Admiralty by the superintendent, showing the vacancies existing in the yard, 2407-2420——Form of the monthly reports; these were sent through the Surveyor of the Navy up to the time of the issue of the circular of 19 April 1852, cancelling the former practice, when they were addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, 2417-2426——Employment of labourers as sawyers in Devonport Yard for temporary purposes; how far this gives them a claim to vacancies for permanent sawyers, 2427-2477.

Return from Devonport Dockyard called for by the Admiralty, showing all the promotions and advancements among the officers and men between 1 March and 31 December 1852; 2478——Observations upon this return, showing the number of promotions that have taken place in contravention of the circular of 1847; 2479-2493——Remarks with respect to the selection of apprentices at Devonport; impossibility of not giving attention to the petitions of men of merit in the yard on behalf of their sons, 2494-2498——Labourers in the yard are promoted occasionally to be labourers in the storehouses, 2499-2507——The promotion of the labourers to sawyers was contrary to the circular of 1847; rumour which arose that political influence had been employed in that

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Seymour, Commodore Michael, R. N. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

that case, 2508-2515——Witness considers it essential to the good discipline and working of the dockyards that everything that can warrant a suspicion that preferment will be the result, not of service, but of political favouritism, should be removed, 2512, 2513.

The first entry of a man into the dockyard can only take place by an Admiralty order, 2516, 2517——Remarks as to the labourers in Devonport Yard; difference between the day and the established labourers, 2518-2522——Witness cannot give the number of entries of persons into Devonport Dockyard in each of the months of 1852; opinion that the entries, subsequently to the issue of the circular of 19 April, were larger than those which had taken place previously to that circular, 2523-2526——Witness sees no objection to the employment of men in the dockyards belonging to the several localities, 2527-2529—— It would be beneficial to the service if the persons employed in dockyards were precluded from either voting or interfering at elections, 2530, 2531——There were no grounds for the complaints of Mr. Stafford's friends, that the appointments and promotions in the dockyards were dispensed among their political opponents, as far as Devonport Dockyard is concerned, 2532-2534. 2573.

Reference to the conduct of Mr. Edye, an officer in the yard, and his supposed interference with politics at the late election; denial of Mr. Edye that he canvassed any man in the yard, 2534-2546——Importance of the situations of master shipwright, master attendant and storekeeper, as those officers recommend parties for promotion; any suspicion of political bias on their part is injurious to the fair working of the system, 2547-2552——As a general principle, witness considers that an individual that has held an inferior office in a yard, should not be advanced to a superior office in the same yard, 2553-2559——Witness has no proof of Mr. Edye having used his political influence among the men in the yard during the election; statement of Mr. Edye as to how far he interfered at the election; witness relies upon that statement, 2560-2573——Witness fully approved of the Admiralty circular of 1849; it was a decided improvement on the order of 1847; 2574, 2575.

Since the cancelling of the order of 1849 by the circular of 19 April 1852, the order of 1847 has not been strictly adhered to, 2576, 2577——Remarks relative to the appointment of an organist to the dockyard chapel at Devonport, 2578-2581. 2641-2649. 2659, 2660. 2684. 2701-2704——Witness has no doubt of the existence of a patronage committee at Devonport, who watch whatever opportunities occur for appointments in the yard, 2582-2585. 2641-2650. Communications received by witness from Mr. Stafford in relation to the election of 1852; 2586-2588——No canvassing whatever took place in Devonport Dockyard with witness's knowledge, 2589——Circumstances under which witness accompanied Mr. Stafford and the Conservative candidates for Devonport round the dockyard previous to the election of 1852; witness never considered that so doing might give a notion to parties in the yard that those candidates were in connexion with and receiving the sanction of witness and Mr. Stafford, the representative of the Admiralty, 2590-2599. 2613, 2614——Occasional employment of joiners on shipwrights' work; there is no objection to this practice, 2600, 2601.

There were some unusual entries of shipwrights' apprentices at Devonport in 1852; any deviation from the usual practice is objectionable, and is an injustice done to the men in the yard, 2602-2612. 2624-2628.——Use of the Nasmyth's hammer in Devonport Dockyard; the working of those hammers is perfectly understood; the work done is equal to that at the Woolwich yard, 2615-2623——The master smith of Devonport Dockyard, Mr. Ainslie, was appointed from the private trade; beneficial effects of this appointment, 2629-2640. 2646, 2647. 2680-2683——Whilst witness was at Sheerness he was perfectly satisfied with the course that promotions in the yard were taking; witness has no recollection of any promotions being made which were contrary to the circular of 1847; 2651-2653——Witness was satisfied with the course of promotion at Devonport previous to April 1852; 2654.

It is desirable, for the good of the service, to introduce men from the private yards into the Government yards, such as in the case of the master smith at Devonport, although to a certain extent it may interfere with the promotions, 2655-2658——Particulars as to the case of Oram, who was sent to Plymouth to learn the use of the planing machine; complaint of Birt of his having been displaced by Oram; Oram was the best man, 2661-2677——Observations with respect to vacancies of sawyers and labourers filled up in the Devonport yard by the Admiralty, which were not considered necessary by witness, 2685-2688——In the event of parties presenting themselves at Devonport Dockyard to be entered on the establishment, it is considered necessary for them produce either an order from the Admiralty or their warrant of appointment, 2689-2696. 2700, 2701—— It is witness's impression that some of the men nominated by the Admiralty without consulting witness were voters, and that the rest were relations of voters outside the yard, 2697-2699——The appointment of the organist was not a violation of the circular order of 1847; 2701-2704.

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Seymour, Commodore. Witness has never known Commodore Seymour exercise the slightest influence politically since he has been at Devonport, *Beer* 4686, 4687.

Sheerness Dockyard. Witness was appointed superintendent of Sheerness Dockyard by Sir Francis Baring; letter from Sir F. Baring, dated 11 November 1850, offering witness the appointment; the appointment was not the result of any political application, *Seymour* 2359-2361——Whilst witness was at Sheerness, he was perfectly satisfied with the course that promotions in the yard were taking; witness has no recollection of any promotions being made which were contrary to the circular of 1847, *ib.* 2651-2653.

See also *Bailey, Thomas.*

Shipwrights. Opinion that there is very little chance for any shipwright to get promotion if he has to be reported through the circular of 1847, as witness considers all the officers in the dockyards would give their favour according to their political opinions, *Beer* 4638-4642.——*See* also *Apprentices. Examination of Shipwrights.*

Smale, William. Remarks as to the case of Smale, who was promoted as master smith at Chatham, upon the removal of Cotsell to Portsmouth; witness made no recommendation in his favour, *H. Eden* 3379-3382——Copy of the warrant appointing Mr. Smale acting master smith at Chatham, vice Cotsell, removed to Portsmouth, *App.* 365.

Smitheries. Bad system of management in the dockyard smitheries in 1848; the smitheries were many years behind the private trade in improvements, *Sir B. Walker* 751, 752——How far men promoted in the smitheries are subjected to any examination, *ib.* 809, 810——Witness was a member of a committee appointed in 1845 for the examination of the smitheries in the dockyards; opinion of the committee that the smitheries were not in a very satisfactory condition, as compared with good establishments in the private trade, *Lloyd* 3606-3611.——*See* also *Private Trade.*

Stafford, Augustus, M.P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness distinctly remembers receiving the submission of the Surveyor of the Navy, recommending Mr. Wells, dated 9 September 1852; the letter of submission in Parliamentary Paper 271, p. 1, is an exact copy of it, 968, 969——To the best of witness's belief, the warrant for the appointment of Mr. Wells was never made out; witness is certain it was never signed, 970-972.

[Second Examination.]—Witness was appointed Secretary to the Admiralty on 3 March 1852; 1133, 1134——Witness denies having sent Mr. Grant to Sir B. Walker on the errand described by the latter, 1135——Letter written by witness to Sir B. Walker, dated 2 April 1852, with respect to the dissatisfaction of his political friends with the existing arrangement of appointments and promotions in the dockyards, and referring to the resumption of the system which existed previous to September 1849; 1135——Reply received to that letter, dated 3 April, stating the impossibility of advancement taking place upon political grounds, under the circular of 1847, but stating the great saving that had been effected under the circular of 1849; 1136, 1137——Interview witness had with Sir B. Walker as to the pressure on witness in respect to the dockyard patronage by certain members of his party; there was no pressure put upon witness either by Lord Derby or the Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1137. 1215-1222.

Explanation as to the Government code of 1847 and the circular of 26 September 1849; the first was a code making advancements depend upon merit alone, the second applied to the transfer of the control to the Surveyor, and it was to that alone that the circular of 1852 referred, 1137——Witness never sent Mr. Grant to Sir B. Walker with a request that he would not submit names for promotion, 1138-1141——Observations on witness's letter of 2 April to Sir B. Walker, in which he referred to an impression that the appointments and promotions were given to political opponents of the Government; grounds for that impression, 1142-1171. 1209-1214——Great number of promotions made by witness in the dockyards between 3 March and 2 April, 1159. 1161. 1198, 1199——In consequence of the numerous complaints as to the system of appointments and promotions in the dockyards, witness considered that the recurrence of such transactions would be prevented by the cancelling of the circular of 1849; 1165, 1166.

When witness entered the Admiralty he was informed, and thoroughly believed, that the dockyards were under the management of the Secretary; this impression was the cause of the cancelling of the circular of 1849 without consultation with the Board, 1169, 1170——Reference to the passage read by witness to The House, conveying the impression that the Government which had been displaced from office had the design of retaining the patronage of the dockyards through the intervention of the system that they had arranged for the promotions; observations thereon, 1172-1177——The whole of the superintendents of the dockyards were appointed by the Whig Government; their tenures are for five years, 1178, 1179——The superintendents being appointed by witness's political opponents, he considers that his motives for cancelling the circular were less liable to suspicion than if they had been appointed by his own party, 1179.

Remarks as to witness's distrust of the Surveyor's office as to promotions, on his proposing to cancel the circular of 1849; 1180, 1181——Prior to witness cancelling the circular of 1849, he consulted with the First Lord, and the order was cancelled under his cognizance

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cognizance and authority, 1181–1191. 1223–1225. 1271–1279 — The circulars of 1847 and 1849 only refer to promotions, not to first appointments, 1193–1197——In taking the patronage of the dockyards from Sir B. Walker, witness intended to satisfy his political friends by ascertaining that the whole of the promotions were not given to political opponents, 1198–1206.——(*Sir B. Walker.*) Witness never had anything to do with the patronage of the dockyards as far as concerns first appointments, 1207, 1208.——(*Mr. Stafford.*) Reason why witness did not consult the Naval Lord at the Admiralty prior to the issue of the circular, cancelling the order of 1849; 1226–1229.

Witness hands in the Board Minute Book of the Admiralty, showing that the circular of 29 September 1849 was not issued on a Board Minute, 1230, 1231——The circular of September 1849 is entered in the General Minute Book; this book delivered in, 1231, 1232——As the circular of September 1849 was never brought before the Board, there was no necessity for bringing the circular of April 1852, cancelling the former one, before the Board, 1232–1239——The circular of 1849 applied to the transfer of the control to the Surveyor, and it was to that alone that the circular of 1852 referred; remarks as to how that transfer of control took place; opinion of Sir James Graham as to the official correctness of the course adopted, 1239——With reference to Sir B. Walker's letter of 21 April, that letter never reached witness, 1239——Interview which took place between Sir B. Walker, Admiral Parker, and witness, on 26 April, when the circular of that date was agreed to as removing all personal imputation from Sir B. Walker, which was never intended to be cast upon him by the circular of 19 April, 1239. 1258–1260.

Explanation upon the subject of the motion made on 23 November, for copies of correspondence between the Surveyor and the Admiralty, and witness's answer that there was no such correspondence; at the time of making that answer witness was not aware of any correspondence having taken place, 1239–1257——Witness never pressed Sir B. Walker to suppress the correspondence; circumstances under which witness requested Captain Milne to see Sir B. Walker upon the subject, 1239–1243. 1247——At the interview between Sir B. Walker, Admiral Parker, and witness on 26 April, the letter of Sir B. Walker was discussed as far as related to the subject of the imputation and the circular to the dockyards, but it did not involve the question of resignation, 1258-1260. 1266–1270.

The letter of Sir B. Walker tendering his resignation was not discussed or brought under the consideration of the Board on 26 April, 1261–1265——In issuing the circular of the 26 April, witness proposed to revert to the system that was in force previous to September 1849, as to promotions in the dockyards; nature of the dockyard regulations of 1847, as to promotions, 1280–1304——Opinion that the Surveyor should not have the control of the expenditure of money in the dockyards; the Surveyor should not be answerable for the Estimates, 1298——The cancelling of the circular of 1849 had the effect of depreciating and weakening the influence of the Surveyor, except in his own department, 1304——Vacancies in the dockyards have been sometimes filled up without witness's knowledge; instance of the appointment of some labourers at Woolwich, 1305–1307.

(*Mr. Grant.*) Clerk in the Admiralty; private secretary to Mr. Stafford, 1308–1314——Statement as to the course pursued in filling up vacancies for labourers in the dockyards; the patronage rests with the Secretary of the Admiralty; witness is not aware that the Surveyor ever recommended labourers to be introduced, 1315–1323.——(*Mr. Stafford.*) As regards labourers in the dockyards, upon a vacancy arising, that would always be considered as fair patronage for the Secretary, 1324.——(*Mr. Grant.*) Observations with respect to the appointment of certain labourers as sawyers in Devonport Dockyard, by Mr. Stafford; the letter from the superintendent merely stated there were certain vacancies for sawyers, and the Secretary might have thought it a fair occasion in which to exercise his patronage, 1325–1334——Course pursued in selecting men for promotion as leading men in the dockyards, 1335.

(*Mr. Stafford and Mr. Grant.*) Evidence generally with respect to certain appointments and promotions made by the Secretary, which were considered unjust by Sir B. Walker; remarks of Sir B. Walker, objecting to certain recommendations for promotion; reasons why these objections were not attended to, 1335–1366.——(*Mr. Stafford.*) With respect to the Surveyor's submission, that vacancies should be kept in Woolwich Dockyard for shipwrights' apprentices under instruction at the Central School, witness proposed that two vacancies should be kept at Woolwich, and a proportionate number at other yards, 1357–1363.——(*Mr. Stafford and Mr. Grant.*) Explanation with respect to the appointment of Ridgway as first-class man at the metal mills at Chatham, in opposition to the report of the superintendent, which stated his incompetency for the office, 1367–1394.

(*Mr. Stafford.*) The appointment of Ridgway was merely probationary for six months; he remained in the situation nine months, and incurred no censure, 1386–1393——Observations relative to the promotion of William Groves, a furnace-man at Chatham, to the situation of forgeman, although reported not qualified by the superintendent, 1395–1401——

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1401——With reference to the letter of Sir B. Walker to the Duke of Northumberland, of 10 May 1852, his Grace determined to make the letter a private letter, and witness's intercourse with his Grace, in explaining the promotions objected to, were strictly confidential, 1402-1422——Witness never received any letters from the superintendents of dockyards, remonstrating against the course of promotion that was taking place, except the one from Captain Richards, 1423——Witness does not recollect the First Lord having shown him any letters remonstrating against the course of promotion, 1424.

[Third Examination.]—Witness saw the submission of the Surveyor, recommending Mr. Wells, the latter end of September; this paper has since been lost, 1695-1704——Previous to the appointment of Cotsell, witness consulted with Admiral Parker, who remonstrated against his appointment to Portsmouth, and expressed a strong opinion that Wells ought to be appointed, 1705-1734. 1837-1842——Witness named the subject of Cotsell's appointment to the First Lord, but he gave no opinion upon the matter, 1719-1725——Witness promoted Cotsell, as being the most fit man in the service for the place at Portsmouth, 1735-1750——At the time witness appointed Cotsell to Portsmouth, he was not aware that Wells was in possession of the situation; his belief was, that the post was unoccupied, as no warrant to Wells had been made out, 1751-1789. 1888*, 1889.

Opinion that the superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard, in admitting Mr. Wells without a warrant, committed an irregularity; the letter from the Lords of the Admiralty, signed by Captain Hamilton, was not an authorisation to the superintendent to employ Wells, 1757-1789——Witness attaches no importance to the document recommending Wells being signed by the initials of Admiral Parker, as he considers Admiral Parker stepped out of his department by so initialing it, 1790-1792——Witness considers that almost all the dockyard appointments were in his hands, the First Lord having given them over to him, 1793-1800——Letter from witness to Mr. Wells, dated 18 October 1852, in answer to his memorial; witness never received any further communication from Mr. Wells, the next communication being that of 6 January 1853, when witness had left the office, 1802-1805.

Circumstances which induced witness to appoint Mr. Cotsell to Portsmouth; memorial from Cotsell soliciting the appointment, 1806-1822——Witness did not take the opinion of the Surveyor before transferring Cotsell from Chatham to Portsmouth, as witness gathered his opinion from his submission with regard to Wells, 1823-1826——Witness did not bring Mr. Wells's memorial under the consideration of any Lords of the Admiralty before answering it, 1827-1832——Remarks as to how far Mr. Wells may have been led to expect the Portsmouth appointment; he received no official notice of any such appointment, 1827-1836——With respect to witness having called Mr. Wells the *protégé* of the Surveyor of the Navy, he did not do so in any discourteous or unkind spirit, 1836. 1888——When witness mentioned Cotsell's appointment to the First Lord, he made no objection, or witness would have been obliged to cancel it, 1843-1852. 1855-1858.

Witness denies that it was decided by the Lords of the Admiralty that a man should be taken from a private yard for Portsmouth; there is no record of it in the books, 1853, 1854——Witness consulted Captain Duncombe and Sir T. Herbert with reference to the appointment of Cotsell, and, notwithstanding the remonstrance of Admiral Parker, they were of opinion that Cotsell's case was a good one, and ought to go forward, 1859-1866——With respect to the warrant appointing Wells to Portsmouth, it was kept back, and not signed by Captain Hamilton, at witness's request; witness desired him not to let any appointment belonging to him go forward in his absence, 1867-1879——Witness did not look for any official information as to Cotsell's qualifications, but acted on his own knowledge and judgment, 1880-1884——Witness has no knowledge as to what became of the documents having relation to the appointment of Wells, 1885-1887.

At the time of witness cancelling the circular of 1849 he did not attach any importance to it; with witness's present experience he would not have cancelled it without bringing it before the Board, 1890-1897——Memorial of Mr. Cotsell to the Admiralty, of January 1849, relating to a set of tools of his invention; flattering approbation of the Admiralty, 1898-1901——High opinion of Sir Frederic Smith as to the capabilities of Cotsell; recommendation of Cotsell to witness by Sir F. Smith, 1902-1906.

[Fourth Examination.]—Witness requested Captain Hamilton, through Mr. Grant, to postpone any appointment of importance during his absence from the Admiralty, 3484-3486.

[Fifth Examination.]—Remarks generally with respect to Ridgway's case; this was one of the cases which led to the issue of the circular of 19 April, 3958-3966. 3998, 3999——The letter from Captain Richards to witness, upon the subject of Ridgway's application to Sir Francis Baring, was subsequent to Ridgway's appointment, 3959-3961——Witness does not consider that the appointment of Ridgway was a violation of the orders of 1847; 3961——Opinion that Captain Richards was the strongest political partisan of any of the superintendents of the dockyards, 3966-3981——Reason why witness

did

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did not withhold the appointment of Ridgway when made acquainted with the fact of its being obtained by political influence by Captain Richards, 3982-3997——There was no further correspondence between Captain Richards and witness up to 1 May; the conclusion of the correspondence was, that Captain Richards was requested to report, if Ridgway was found incompetent, 3999, 4000.

Correction of Captain Richards's evidence as to the period when he met witness at Sheerness Dockyard, 3999-4001——Witness did not consult any one at the Admiralty, or any Member of the Government, with respect to issuing the circular of 19 April; it was entirely from witness's own notion, wishing to alter the system of promotions, 4003-4007——The Duke of Northumberland communicated to witness the interview he had had with Captain Richards, in which he recommended Captain Richards, in all future cases, to come to him, 4010-4013——Observations as to the letter written by witness to Captain Richards on 24 May 1852, expressing surprise at his having appointed a forgeman to Chatham Yard, when Mr. Groves had been already appointed; the vacancy having remained open for seven months, witness considered that Captain Richards should have communicated to the Board his intention to make the appointment before doing so, 4014-4032.

All letters coming from the Secretary must appear to come from the Board; the words in witness's letter to Captain Richards were merely those of a stereotype form, 4016-4020——Explanation with respect to the case of Edward Atkinson, who was appointed on probation for advancement to single firemen at Chatham, 4033-4041——Remarks on the case of George Rule, a yard labourer, who was promoted to be a workman at the metal mills, 4042——The interpretation witness puts upon the circular of 1847 is, that the removal of men in the dockyards from any one class to another branch of the service is a first entry, as much as though the men were not in the yards; and the patronage of the first entries being in the Admiralty, witness considered he was right in making several of the appointments complained of by Captain Richards, and by him miscalled promotions, 4042-4063——On witness's first appointment to the Admiralty, he made diligent inquiries with respect to the limits of his patronage; authorities consulted upon the subject, 4064-4069.

[Sixth Examination.]—Difficulties experienced by witness from being the only civilian at the Board; there was not that perfect harmony in the administration of the officers which might have been wished for, 4086-4088——Great difficulties which witness experienced in making himself understood by the Board in his endeavours to prevent the Estimates from being exceeded, 4088-4093——In cancelling the circular of 1849 witness does not consider that he injured the efficiency of the Surveyor in assisting him to keep down the expenditure, 4094-4106——The Surveyor's opinion upon the filling up of vacancies is of great value, as enabling witness to consider, looking at all the dockyards, whether it is desirable or not, 4102-4106——One difficulty experienced by witness from the want of harmony between the Board of Admiralty and the House of Commons arose from questions asked in the House as to the transactions of the Admiralty, 4107-4111. 4174-4180——Another difficulty which witness experienced was that all his Parliamentary supporters represented that the patronage was entirely given hostile to the Government, 4112-4116.

Grounds on which witness cancelled the circular of 1849; witness believed that that circular gave all the patronage to the Surveyor of the Navy, 4117-4152——Further remarks as to the confusion which has arisen from the superintendents of the dockyards considering as promotions those cases which witness considered as first entries, 4153-4158——The circular of 1849 not being contained in the Board Book, but in the General Minute Book, witness concluded that he had power to cancel that circular without bringing it before the Board, 4159-4172——Suggestions of witness as to the issue of a new code of regulations for the dockyards, 4163-4173——With reference to the appointment of George Rule witness did not consider himself bound to follow the recommendation of Captain Richards, as he looked upon it as a first entry, 4181-4183.

Complaints of the superintendent of the Chatham Dockyard of his recommendations for promotions being passed over, and other parties promoted and appointed; explanation as to why witness did not closely attend to these recommendations, 4183-4226——The misunderstanding arose from a want of proper communication with Captain Richards, and would all have been remedied if Captain Richards had availed himself of the Duke of Northumberland's special invitation, 4274-4276——The whole system of apprentices, as laid down in the regulations of 1847, was affected by an order issued in 1851 that no apprentices should be entered during the year 1852; 4227——Evidence relative to seven boys being sent down to Chatham in December 1852 for examination as shipwrights' apprentices, 4227-4257.

Objections to giving up entirely the apprenticeships to the people in the dockyards, as committing an act of injustice on a meritorious class out of the yards, 4231, 4232——Immediately on the Duke of Northumberland taking office witness was appointed Secretary by the Board, and entered upon his duties directly, 4258-4260——With the exception

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of the First Lord, witness had no communication with the Lords of the Admiralty as to cancelling the circular of 1849; 4261-4263——The impression upon witness's mind was that the only way of removing the dissatisfaction which existed among his political friends was by cancelling the circular of 1849; 4264, 4265——Observations as to the parties consulted by witness previous to the issue of the circular cancelling the order of 1849; witness takes the whole responsibility of cancelling that order upon himself, 4266-4274.

Evidence relative to witness's visit to Plymouth and Devonport in June 1852, and the dinners given by him at Morshead's Hotel, Devonport, to the officers of the yards, 4275-4315——Witness's visit to Devonport was not from any political motive, 4312-4315——Circumstances under which witness went round Deptford Dockyard with Mr. Rolt, the candidate for Greenwich, 4316-4322——Witness never wrote to Captain Dundas, desiring him to use his influence in favour of Mr. Rolt; witness considers the letter to have been an election hoax, 4323-4328. 4378——Explanation as to the proposition with regard to patronage drawn up and signed by witness, and submitted to the Duke of Northumberland for his approbation, 4330-4345——Witness never signed anything with regard to Cotsell, except the warrant for his appointment, 4330.

The Surveyor was not consulted on every appointment made by witness, nor was witness in the habit of constant consultation with him, 4346-4349——Witness considers that the First Lord has the whole of the patronage of the Admiralty, if he chooses to exercise the right; but, practically, he distributes it for convenience, 4350-4363——At one time, all the clerks of the Admiralty were considered clerks to the Secretary, and appointed by him; this was during the period that Mr. Croker was Secretary, 4350, 4351. 4360-4363——Witness does not recollect that the Surveyor was consulted on any promotion after April 1852; reference to the impression of the Duke of Northumberland, that consultations were held upon the promotions, 4364-4369.

[Seventh Examination.]—Order of the First Naval Lord for the sailing of the "Black Eagle," on 19 June 1852, to Portsmouth, 4437-4444——Observations as to how far any evidence can be brought forward to substantiate the charge of political jobbing during Sir Francis Baring's administration of the Admiralty, as made in certain anonymous letters to witness, 4445-4457.

[Eighth Examination.]—Evidence in detail as to the circumstances which induced witness to cancel the circular of 1849; by preventing the recommendations of the superintendents passing through the Surveyor's office, witness considered that the evils complained of, as to parties being unfairly passed over in the promotions, would be remedied, 4497-4548——Reference to a book sent in by witness, called "General Instructions for the Five Principal Officers of the Civil Department of the Admiralty," 4549, 4550.

[Ninth Examination.]—Explanation relative to the position of the Surveyor as to the submissions, and as to the practice of the Admiralty, 4773-4783——Extract from the general instructions for Her Majesty's dockyards, of 1844, upon the subject, 4774——Remarks as to witness's speech in the House of Commons; how far he left an apparently strong imputation upon the Surveyor's department, 4780-4783——Had Sir Henry Ward remained at the Admiralty, he would not have acquiesced in the circular of 1849, whereas Mr. Parker surrendered it; high opinion expressed of Mr. Parker as a public servant, 4784——Suspicions entertained by witness of collusion among the subordinates in the Surveyor's department and the dockyards, 4785, 4786——Observation of Mr. Smith, M.P., to witness, that he considered the imputation of political motives to Captain Richards as unjust, 4787——Letter from James Nasmyth to George Cotsell, dated 2 July 1846, congratulating him on his appointment as master smith at Chatham, and testifying to his merits, delivered in and read, 4787.

[Tenth Examination.]—Further remarks as to the interviews witness had with Sir B. Walker to induce him to withhold the correspondence; witness having stated to the House of Commons that no correspondence existed, was desirous when it was produced by Sir B. Walker that it should not be presented, 4857-4866.

Stafford, Mr. See *Chatham Election. Circular of* 1849. *Correspondence. Cotsell, Mr.*, 2. *Devonport Election*, 2. *Elections. Government Pressure. Greenwich Election. Promotions*, 1. *Secretary to the Admiralty. Submissions of the Surveyor. Wells, Mr.*, 2.

Submissions of the Surveyor. Observations of the Committee as to the contradictory evidence upon the subject of the message sent to Sir B. Walker, requesting him not to submit the names of persons to be promoted into the vacancies in Devonport Dockyard, *Rep.* v——About 30 March 1852, witness received a message from Mr. Stafford, through Mr. Grant, requesting that he would not submit the names of the persons to be promoted into the vacancies for foremen and inspectors of shipwrights in Devonport Dockyard, as Mr.

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Mr. Stafford's political friends were dissatisfied, *Sir B. Walker* 3. 4379–4388——Annoyance of witness at receiving that message, and request made to Mr. Stafford that such a proposition should never again be made, as witness never allowed political motives to influence his submissions to the Board with respect to promotions at the dockyards, *ib.* 3——Conversation which took place between Sir Baldwin Walker and Mr. Grant, in 1852, on the occasion of the latter bringing a message from Mr. Stafford respecting some promotions in Devonport Dockyard; refusal of Sir B. Walker to comply with the proposition, and statement made by him that he never allowed political motives to influence his submissions to the Board with respect to promotions, *Eden* 260–262——Witness denies having sent Mr. Grant to Sir B. Walker on the errand described by the latter, *Stafford* 1135. 1138–1141——Interview witness had with Sir B. Walker, towards the end of 1852, to ascertain whether certain vacancies existed in the dockyards, the Secretary having received applications for certain vacancies, the report of which had not reached him, *Grant* 1609–1627——Under the circular of 1849, when two names came up from the superintendent of a yard for selection, witness merely made a submission as to the most deserving, *Sir B. Walker* 3487, 3488. 3508–3513.

See also *Missing Documents.* *Recommendations of Superintendents.* *Surveyor of the Navy.*

Superannuations. Observations with respect to the number of superannuations from Devonport Dockyard between 26 December 1846 and 16 February 1850; all those men were replaced by the nominees of the patronage of the day; it is witness's impression that men have been unfairly superannuated, *Beer* 4642–4649. 4667–4672——Witness is not aware what superannuations took place during the nine months Lord Derby's Government was in office, *ib.* 4650, 4651. 4673——Observations relative to the superannuations; the reason of so considerable a number in 1849, was the reduction of the yards at that period, *Sir F. Baring* 4766, 4767.——*See* also *Compulsory Retirements.*

Superintendents of Dockyards. Opinion as to the necessity of a control over the general establishment and over the estimates of the dockyards, other than that of the superintendents, *Sir B. Walker* 206——When a minute is made by the Board which is intended to be communicated to the superintendents of the dockyards, it is usual to communicate it in the exact words of the minute; explanation as to the letter written to the superintendents communicating the minute of 26 April 1852; how far the original wording of the minute was departed from, *Pennell* 507–523——The whole of the superintendents in the dockyards were appointed by the Whig Government; their tenure is five years, *Stafford* 1178, 1179——The superintendents being appointed by witness's political opponents, he considers that his motives for cancelling the circular were less liable to suspicion than if they had been appointed by his own party, *ib.* 1179——Witness never received any letters from the superintendents of dockyards remonstrating against the course of promotion that was taking place, except the one from Captain Richards, *ib.* 1423——Practice of the superintendents of dockyards to send up the names of two men for selection; importance of adhering to this system, *H. Eden* 3335–3338——Opinion that the superintendents of the dockyards, from their position, are scarcely capable of forming a just conclusion as to whether promotions are carried on fairly or unjustly, *Beer* 4685.

See also *Circular of* 1852. *Elections.* *Political Influence.* *Recommendations of Surveyors.* *Surveyor of the Navy*, 2.

SURVEYOR OF THE NAVY:

1. *Observations with respect to the Submissions of the Surveyor previous to Promotions taking place in the Dockyards.*
2. *Opinion that Sir B. Walker has never been influenced by Political Motives in his Submissions to the Admiralty.*
3. *Papers laid before the Committee.*

1. *Observations with respect to the Submissions of the Surveyor previous to Promotions taking place in the Dockyards:*

Remarks of the Committee, that during the early part of the year 1849, as well as in some years previous, a practice had prevailed of transmitting to the Surveyor the reports and recommendations received from the superintendents of the dockyards, in order that the Surveyor might make his remarks upon the promotions submitted, &c., *Rep.* iv——In the summer of 1849 the system was altered, and the reports of the superintendents sent direct to the Surveyor, and by him forwarded to the Secretary of the Admiralty, *ib.*——Remarks of the Committee, that after the cancelling of the circular of 1849 the Surveyor was never consulted upon vacancies or promotions by the Secretary; the First Lord considered he would be consulted as before, *ib.* x, xi——Remarks relative to the circular issued by Mr. Stafford, stating that with reference to the cancelling of the rules, no imputation was intended to be cast thereby on the Surveyor of the Navy, and pointing out the desirability of all communications as to appoint-

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Surveyor of the Navy—continued.

1. *Observations with respect to the Submissions of the Surveyor, &c.*—continued.

ments and promotions being addressed to the Admiralty in the first insance, *Sir B. Walker* 3, 4——Opinion that it would be disadvantageous to the service if promotions were carried on generally without the Surveyor of the Navy being consulted, *Milne* 573. 612-619; *Hon. R. S. Dundas* 3678-3685; *Sir T. Herbert* 3702. 3720-3725——The cancelling of the circular of 1849 had the effect of depreciating and weakening the influence of the Surveyor, except in his own department, *Stafford* 1304——It was witness's intention that the Surveyor should be consulted by the Secretary previous to any promotions taking place in the dockyards, *Duke of Northumberland* 3159-3168.

Witness cautioned Mr. Stafford against interfering with the duties of the Surveyor, as witness could not permit the regulations to be broken, *Duke of Northumberland* 3233, 3234——Necessity for there being a consultation between the Secretary and the Surveyor constantly upon every subject of promotion in the dockyards, *ib.* 3256-3259——The Surveyor's opinion upon the filling up of vacancies is of great value, as enabling witness to consider, looking at all the dockyards, whether it is desirable or not, *Stafford* 4102-4106——The Surveyor was not consulted on every appointment made by witness, nor was witness in the habit of constant consultation with him, *ib.* 4346-4349. 4364-4369——Explanation relative to the position of the Surveyor as to the submissions, and as to the practice of the Admiralty, *ib.* 4773-4783——Extracts from the general instructions for Her Majesty's dockyards in 1844, upon the subject, *ib.* 4774——Return as to the correspondence direct from the dockyards to the Surveyor respecting the promotions, vacancies, &c., in the dockyards, *Sir B. Walker* 4849-4851.

2. *Opinion that Sir B. Walker has never been influenced by Political Motives in his Submissions to the Admiralty:*

Remarks of the Committee on the unanimous testimony of the superintendents as to the fairness with which their recommendations had been treated whilst the circular of 1849 was in force, and their perfect confidence in the impartiality of the Surveyor's department, *Rep.* viii, ix——Opinion of the Committee that they have heard nothing which casts the least shadow of suspicion upon the integrity of the conduct of the Surveyor in the performance of his official duties, *ib.* ix——No complaints were ever made at the Admiralty in regard to the mode of making promotions, whilst those promotions passed through the hands of the Surveyor; the Surveyor never used his patronage for any political purpose, *Sir H. Parker* 312-315. 417, 418; *Sir F. Baring* 4744——Opinion that no man could carry out things in a more proper way, according to the circular of 1849, than Sir B. Walker did; everything went forward to the best advantage for the interest of the service, *Richards* 2151, 2152; *H. Eden* 3420-3423——Witness never had reason to think that the recommendations were not fairly considered in the Surveyor's department, but on the contrary, every thing came very regularly from it, *Hon. R. S. Dundas* 3624——Witness never suspected, nor does he believe, that the Surveyor of the Navy used any political influence with regard to his recommendations for promotions, *Sir T. Herbert* 3703-3706.

3. *Papers laid before the Committee:*

Letter from Mr. Stafford to the Surveyor of the Navy, dated 28 April 1852, enclosing his letter to the superintendents, explaining the circular order of 19 April, as to the transmission of reports, &c., *App.* 360——Correspondence between the Board of Admiralty and Sir B. Walker, relative to the withdrawal from him of the appointments of master smiths and other officers in the dockyards, *ib.* 363-371.

See also *Circular of* 1847. *Circular of* 1849. *Circular of* 1852. *Correspondence. Cotsell, Mr.*, 2. *Estimates. Instructions to Officers. Memorials. Monthly Reports. Parker, Admiral. Patronage. Promotions*, 1. 2. *Recommendations of Superintendents. Resignation of the Surveyor. Submissions of the Surveyor. Victualling Yards. Wells, Mr.*, 1.

Surveyor's Department. Remarks relative to witness's distrust of the Surveyor's office as to promotions, on his proposing to cancel the circular of 1849, *Stafford* 1180, 1181. 4785, 4786——Witness has never allowed any one in his department to use private influence for the advantage of their friends, *Sir B. Walker* 3513-3520——Remarks as to witness's speech in the House of Commons; how far he left a strong imputation upon the Surveyor's department, *Stafford* 4780-4783.

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Talbot, Hon. W. P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was private secretary to Lord Derby' 1230——Witness delivers in a letter, dated 2 May 1853, stating that unless the Committee are perfectly satisfied that Lord Derby brought no undue influence to bear upon Mr. Stafford with reference to the dockyard appointments, his Lordship would wish to be called upon to give evidence before the Committee, 1230.

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Task Work. It is not the practice in the dockyards to employ task-work in all cases where it might be employed with advantage, the objection being the waste of materials, *Richards* 2078-2081.

Triscott, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Storekeeper of the Royal William Victualling-yard, at Stonehouse, 2705-2708——Witness did not go into Devonport on the day of the late election, 2709-2711. 2722——Particulars relative to witness being on the hustings at Plymouth with Mr. Mare on the nomination day, 2712-2721——Witness never canvassed any parties for their votes at the 1852 election; he may have spoken to one or two voters in regard to their votes, 2723-2734——Captain Rich, the superintendent, spoke to witness as to the rumours of his conduct with regard to the election, 2735-2744——Witness denies having taken any part in the election, either for Devonport or Plymouth; witness was applied to by the chairman of Sir George Berkeley's committee for assistance; refusal of witness to speak to the voters in the victualling-yard as requested, 2745-2759——Names of the parties who took an active part in the Devonport election, 2753-2766.

Dinner given to Mr. Stafford on his arrival at Devonport about 22 June; names of the parties present at this dinner, 2767-2797——Statement as to witness's absence from the victualling-yard on duty during 1852; list of yards visited, 2798-2803——Conversations witness has had with Major Beresford in reference to certain elections, 2804-2819——Evidence as to witness's communication with Mr. Forbes Mackenzie with respect to Mr. Rolt's election for Greenwich; witness persuaded Mr. Rolt to go on with the contest, otherwise he would have given it up, 2820-2863——Witness does not deny having stated that he had been very instrumental in the return of Members to serve in Parliament; names of the Members to which he referred, 2864-2876——Witness was consulted by Major Beresford as to the chances of a Conservative candidate for the borough of Devonport; doubts expressed by witness as to the possibility of unseating either Sir John Romilly or Mr. Tufnell, 2877-2895.

Desire expressed by witness to return to Bermuda, where he has held an appointment; conversation had with Members of the late Government upon the subject, 2896-2909. 2957-2965——Communications witness had with Colonel Forester with respect to the election for the borough of Devonport, 2910-2913——Observations as to several men in the victualling-yard having spoken to witness about their voting for the Conservative candidates; refusal of witness to make any promises to those voters, and advice given them to vote according to their consciences, 2931-2953——Appointment of witness as superintendent of Stonehouse Victualling-yard by Sir Francis Baring; letter received by witness stating that he was not to interfere in local politics, 2954-2956——Witness never understood that letter as relating to elections for Members of Parliament, but merely to local politics, as matters relating entirely to the town, 2966-2977.

On Captain Rich speaking to witness respecting the report of his taking part in the elections, witness replied he had not interfered therein, 2978-2982——Witness does not consider his intercourse with Major Beresford and Colonel Forester as any violation of the condition that he was not to interfere with local politics, 2983-2995. 3034, 3035——Witness has never been consulted with respect to promotions in the victualling-yard, nor does he ever sign any recommendations, 2996-2999. 3038-3051——Remarks as to the application made to Captain Rich for the entry of the son of a man named Brown, in the victualling-yard, as a cooper's apprentice, to bear out the recommendation of Mr. Tufnell, 2999-3011——Statement as to the usual mode of entering apprentices in the Victualling-yard at Stonehouse, 3012-3018——Application made by Brown to witness, before the election, to bring his son's name under the consideration of Captain Rich; witness promised to see justice done to him and his services, 3019-3031.

Canvassing is strictly forbidden in the victualling-yard; witness had occasion to turn out Mr. Mare's committee from Devonport Victualling-yard, 3032, 3033——Objections to the officers in the Government yards being prevented from interfering in politics, 3036——Opinion that witness's having been instrumental in returning Members to Parliament was no infringement of the letter received from Sir Francis Baring, directing him to abstain from interfering in local politics, 3037——Witness never had any communication, directly or indirectly, with Mr. Stafford, nor any person at the Admiralty, with respect to the elections, 3052-3055——The dockyard influence is so great in the dockyard boroughs, that no candidate stands any chance of success in opposition to it; whichever Government is in has a very great chance of success for any dockyard borough, 3056-3066.

Triscott, Mr. Caution of Mr. Triscott by witness respecting political interference, in consequence of the existence of strong rumours; denial of Mr. Triscott of having taken any part in the election at Plymouth, *Rich* 3539-3541. 3548.

Tufnell, Right Hon. Henry, M.P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is not aware that Mr. Edye took any part in witness's election for Devonport, 4803-4805——Explanation as to the patronage committees existing at Devonport, and the frequent applications to

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witness for appointments, 4806, 4807——Remarks relative to the distribution of patronage; witness had no reason to be dissatisfied with the distribution when his opponents were in power, 4808-4812——Circumstances under which witness gave a dinner at Devonport in 1850, at which several officers of the dockyard were present, 4813——Witness concurs in the opinion of Sir F. Baring that the disfranchisement of the dockyards would not cure the evils complained of, 4814, 4815——Visit of the Secretary to the Admiralty to Devonport at the time of the election; influential effect of such a visit on the voters; witness never knew it take place before at any election, 4815-4818. 4823-4831——Whenever there are vacancies in the dockyard for first entries, persons in the place consider they have the first claim; the dockyard is looked upon as fair patronage for the locality, 4819, 4820——In all the places familiarly called Government boroughs the influence of any Government in office is always exerted in support of their own candidate, 4821, 4822——Reports circulated of the sale of patronage in Devonport Dockyard; inquiry instituted upon one occasion, when the party making the charge immediately retracted it and apologised, 4832.

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Valley, ——. Observations as to the promotion of —— Valley to be a rigger at Chatham without witness's recommendation, *Richards* 2121–2123.

Victualling Yards. The Surveyor of the Navy has no control whatever in the victualling-yards, *Rich* 3562——Observations with respect to the transfer of certain extra men to the permanent establishment of the Plymouth Victualling-yard; the whole of the parties transferred met with witness's approbation, *ib.* 3586, 3587.

Voters. See *Dockyard Voters.*

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Wages. Frequency of men wishing to leave Portsmouth Dockyard to join the private trade, from the low rate of wages, *Fincham* 3863–3868——Return showing the wages expenditure in Her Majesty's dockyards and victualling-yards, during the several months of the year 1852, and showing also the proportion expended to the sum voted (for each yard) during such months, *App.* 382——Return of the wages and expenditure of the dockyards for the years 1846-47 and 1851-52, showing the decrease which has taken place, *ib.* 389.——*See* also *Dockyards.*

Walker, Sir Baldwin. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Surveyor of the Admiralty, 1——Circumstances under which witness wrote to Mr. Stafford, the Secretary of the Admiralty, a letter, dated 21 April 1852, tendering his resignation, 2 *et seq.*——About 31 March 1852, witness received a message from Mr. Stafford, through Mr. Grant, requesting that he would not submit the names of the persons to be promoted into the vacancies in Devonport Dockyard, as Mr. Stafford's political friends were dissatisfied, 3——Annoyance of witness at receiving that message, and request made to Mr. Stafford that such a proposition should never again be made, as witness never allowed political motives to influence his submissions to the Board, 3.

Interview witness had with Mr. Stafford on 5 April 1852, when he stated his intention of cancelling the circular of 1849, respecting all promotions and appointments in the dockyards being made through the Surveyor, 3——This interview ended in witness informing Mr. Stafford, that if he cancelled the order without taking other steps to rectify the evils he stated existed, witness would consider it as a personal thing to himself, 3——On 19 April 1852, the circular was cancelled by Mr. Stafford, without the knowledge of the Board; no notice was sent to witness, and he only knew that such was the case by the dockyard returns, acknowledging its receipt, 3——Copy of witness's letter, dated 21 April 1852, tendering his resignation; this was addressed to the Secretary of the Admiralty, 3——Witness read his letter of 21 April 1852 to Vice-Admiral Parker, who took the letter, and said he would bring it before the Board, 3.

Remarks relative to the circular issued by Mr. Stafford, stating that, with reference to the cancelling of the rules, no imputation was intended to be cast thereby on the Surveyor of the Navy, and pointing out the desirability of all communications as to appointments and promotions being addressed to the Admiralty in the first instance, 3, 4——Witness had no idea that his letter of 21 April 1852 had not been officially brought forward; witness never authorised its destruction or withdrawal, 4——In consequence of unjust promotions being made in the dockyards, and the circular of February 1847 not being adhered to, witness wrote to the First Lord of the Admiralty, dated 10 May 1852, pointing

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ing out the evils of the system pursued with respect to appointments and promotions in the dockyards, as also to the position of the Surveyor of the Navy; no reply was received to that letter, 4. 28. 110.

Observations with respect to the motion of Admiral Berkeley, on 23 November 1852, for copies of correspondence between the Admiralty and the Surveyor on the subject of promotions in the dockyards, and the tendered resignation of the Surveyor; reply of Mr. Stafford, that there was no such correspondence, 4——Letter written by witness to the Board, and interview held with Mr. Stafford upon the subject of Admiral Berkeley's motion, and the reply of Mr. Stafford, 4. 193–198——Letter received by witness from the Admiralty, dated 27 November 1852, directing him to furnish copies of his letters referred to, as they were not to be found in the record office; preparation of copies of the letters of 21 April and 10 May 1852, in consequence of that letter, 4–6. 190–192——Circumstances under which witness was induced by Mr. Stafford not to send the copies of the letters called for by the Board's letter of 27 November 1852; 6, 7.

Observation of Admiral Parker that he did not think witness's letter tendering his resignation had been brought before the Board, and that his impression was that it had been destroyed, 6——No promotions took place in the dockyards from the date when Mr. Stafford first came to the Admiralty up to the 2d April, when he wrote to witness of the dissatisfaction as to the arrangement of appointments and promotions; the only promotion was of a person in a lower grade at Woolwich, made and approved by Mr. Stafford himself, 8–13——Witness's knowledge of the cancelling of the circular of September 1849, without the knowledge of the Board, was derived from Admiral Parker, 14–18——Reason why witness took no further steps in the matter on his not receiving any reply from the Board accepting his tendered resignation; witness considered the official communication of 28 April stating that no imputation was intended to be cast upon his character as an answer, 19–27. 182–187.

Grounds on which witness stated that unjust promotions were made in the dockyards, in his letter to the Duke of Northumberland of 10 May 1852; various instances of unjust promotions cited, 28–124——Manner in which promotions are made in the dockyards, 32–55——The papers relative to the recommendations of the dockyard officers at Woolwich to the superintendent, of certain men for promotion, are not to be found; they were returned from witness's department to the Admiralty on the 7th May 1852, in the usual manner, 56–65. 148–155——Remarks relative to the naval school, and the removal of pupils from that institution to fill up vacancies in the dockyards, 65–74——Statement with respect to the influence which the voting of electors in the dockyards has upon their promotion, 77. 79. 112–124——Observations as to the infraction of the circular of 27 February 1847, in making promotions, although after the cancelling of the circular of September 1849, that was to be strictly adhered to, 79–86.

Instance of the promotion of Joseph Ridgway at Chatham against the recommendation of the superintendent, who reported him incompetent, 89–101. 119–124——Witness's letter of 10 May 1852 to the First Lord of the Admiralty was delivered through Captain Pelham, his private secretary, 104–111——In witness's interview with Mr. Stafford on 5 April, with reference to the cancelling of the circular of 1849, he stated that his political friends were dissatisfied, and that he was so pressed by Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he could not help himself, 125–131——Since witness has been Surveyor of the Navy political influence has not been allowed by him to interfere with promotions made in the dockyards, 132–135——Statement of the case of William Groves, a furnace-man, at Chatham, who was promoted to be a forgeman of the smiths; report of the superintendent that he was not qualified, 138–147.

Number of appointments that took place in the dockyards from 1 April 1852 to the end of the year; there were about 300 more appointments in 1852 than in the previous year, 156–163. 180, 181——Number of men borne on the establishment of the dockyards in 1830, 1834, 1846, and 1848, showing the great increase, 164——Reduction of the number of men on the dockyard establishments from 12,498 to 9,261 on witness coming into office in 1848; sufficiency of the present establishment, 165–173——Necessity for some vacancies in the dockyards being left to be filled up by apprentices coming out of their time, 172, 173——In witness's account of the number of men on the dockyard establishments, he does not include any that belong to the steam navy, as that is entirely distinct, 174–179——Approval by Admiral Parker of witness's letter of 10 May 1852 to the Duke of Northumberland, 188, 189.

After witness had tendered his resignation and received the circular which cleared his character of all imputation, he continued to fulfil the duties of his office, being perfectly satisfied that such official circular issued by the Board was in answer to his letter, 199–206——Opinion as to the necessity of a control over the general establishment, and over the estimates of the dockyards, other than that of the superintendents, 206——The efficiency and economy of the dockyards depend in a great measure upon the arrange-

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ments as to promotions, 206–209—— Pledge exacted by Sir Francis Baring from every one appointed or promoted in the dockyards, that political influence was not in any way to interfere with the public service, 210–214——On witness receiving the letter from Mr. Stafford of 22 November, respecting Admiral Berkeley's motion, witness waited upon him, and stated that Admiral Berkeley knew of his having tendered his resignation, and of his having written to the Duke of Northumberland; and witness referred him to copies of the letters in Whitehall, 215–224.

Interview witness had with the Duke of Northumberland on 29 November, with reference to his letter tendering his resignation, when his Grace appeared to have no knowledge of the existence of such a document; witness was led to believe that the letter had been brought under the notice of his Grace by Admiral Parker, 225–236——Witness never had any reply to his letter of 10 May to the Duke of Northumberland, nor has he any knowledge that his Grace received the letter, further than that Captain Pelham told witness he had put it into the Duke's hands, 237–239——Interview witness had with Mr. Stafford on 29 November, at which he requested witness not to furnish copies of his letters of 21 April and 10 May 1852, as ordered by the Board's letter of 27 November, as it was useless taking up the matter again; witness was in error in complying with that request, but it was done from a feeling that the business should not go further, 240–257——Explanation with respect to the production of the copies of the letters of 21 April and 10 May 1852, by witness, and their publication by order of the House, of 14 March 1853; 250–253.

[Second Examination.]—Reference to the documents referring to promotions which cannot be found; after witness saw them they were committed to the care of Mr. Eden, who wrote the minutes on these documents, 524, 525.

[Third Examination.]—With regard to the submissions of promotions, the documents that are lost were sent from witness's office to the Admiralty, and were acted upon the following day, 652——Those documents ought to be in the record office of the Admiralty, but search has been made in that department without success, 653–656——Remarks relative to witness's letter to Mr. Stafford of 22 November, in answer to his respecting the correspondence called for by Admiral Berkeley. 657–661.

[Fourth Examination.]—Evidence relative to witness's letter of 9 September 1852 to the Board of Admiralty, recommending James Wells for the office of master smith at Portsmouth, he being a person taken from a private yard, 735 *et seq.*——The decision of the Admiralty, that a person from a private yard should be appointed to Portsmouth, was communicated to witness by Admiral Parker, and witness received an order from him to select a person from the private trade, 737–745. 762–766. 847, 848——Great improvements introduced into the smithery at Woolwich by the appointment of a person from the private trade as master smith, 745–752——Appointment of George Black as master smith at Woolwich in 1849 from the private trade, 745–749—— Bad system of management in the dockyard smitheries in 1848; the smitheries were many years behind the private trade in improvements, 751, 752.

Introduction of Nasmyth's hammers into the dockyard smitheries in 1847 or 1848; 752, 753. 760, 761——Appointment of Mr. Ainslie as master smith at Devonport Dockyard in December 1851, selected from the private trade; satisfactory manner in which the duties are performed, 754–759——The right of promotion according to merit in the dockyards has not been interfered with by the appointment of master smiths from the private trade, 759——Steps taken by witness to select a competent person from the private trade to fill the office of master smith at Portsmouth, 767——On James Wells being highly recommended to witness, he wrote to the Board of Admiralty, on 9 September, recommending his probationary appointment as master smith at Portsmouth, 767–780——On 10 September 1852, witness received a letter from the Board of Admiralty, containing the probationary appointment of James Wells, 781–785.

Dismissal of Mr. Wells from Portsmouth on 2 October 1852, he being superseded in his appointment by George Cotsell, 786, 787——Application made by Mr. Wells to witness with respect to his dismissal from Portsmouth; memorial forwarded by witness to the Admiralty; witness received no reply to that communication, but a letter in answer to the memorial was received by Mr. Wells, 787, 788. 811–816. 830–835——Examination of James Wells by Mr. Lloyd, the chief engineer, before witness submitted his recommendation to the Admiralty; opinion of Mr. Lloyd as to his competency to fill the office of master smith at Portsmouth, 787. 789–795. 836–840——Mr. Wells was no protégé of witness's; he was merely recommended to witness by the master smith at Woolwich as a competent man, 787——Remarks relative to the forging and repairing of anchors in the dockyards; anchors are constantly supplied by contract, 791–794.

On making inquiries at Portsmouth, witness learnt that Mr. Wells gave universal satisfaction during his short period of probation, 796–799——The appointment of all principal officers rests with the First Lord of the Admiralty; witness considers the master smiths

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smiths in the appointment of the First Lord, 800, 801——Witness does not consider that the regulations of 1847, providing that men who were once in the service should rise by merit alone, were infringed by the introduction of persons from private yards, 802–808——Master smiths from private yards having been successfully introduced at Woolwich and Devonport, witness saw no objection to a like appointment to Portsmouth, 808——How far men promoted in the smitheries are subjected to any examination, 809, 810.

Communication witness had with Admiral Parker on 2 October, on the subject of the removal of Mr. Wells from his position, and the appointment of Cotsell to the office; remarks of Admiral Parker upon the subject of such appointment, 817–821——Letter written by Admiral Parker to the Duke of Northumberland, pointing out the impropriety of Wells's removal and Cotsell's appointment to Portsmouth, 819——Under the circular of 1847, the recommendation for Cotsell's promotion should have been forwarded to witness for his opinion; no such opportunity was afforded witness in this case, 823–826——Satisfactory manner in which Cotsell performed his duty as master smith at Chatham; experience possessed by him in the management of Nasmyth's hammers, 827–829——Explanation as to the evidence given by witness before the Chatham Election Committee; immense number of mistakes in that evidence; no opportunity was afforded witness of correcting that evidence, as he expected, 839–841.

Witness was informed by Admiral Parker that Wells's memorial never came before the Board; therefore the answer to Wells of 18 October must have been given on the responsibility of the Secretary, 842–846——Witness considered the letter of 10 September 1852, from the Admiralty, as sanctioning his selection of James Wells from the private trade, 849——Objection of Admiral Parker to Cotsell's appointment, he having held an inferior office at Portsmouth; it is the general rule that men who have performed duty in any junior grade should not hold a principal office in the same yard, 850–852——Remarks as to the letter from the Admiralty to James Wells, dated 27 January 1853, stating their Lordships' intention to replace him in the situation of master smith at Portsmouth; full inquiry instituted by Sir James Graham into the case, which led to this result, 853–863.

In recommending any person for promotion witness considers it his duty to give the preference to any one already in the service; there was no person competent to fill the office of master smith at Portsmouth at the time witness recommended James Wells from the private trade, 864, 865. 868——The first appointment from the private trade took place in 1849, when Mr. Black was entered as master smith at Woolwich; these appointments have worked most satisfactory, 866–868——Observations as to the many men who had been promoted on the dismissal of Mr. Wells; the replacement of Wells sends these men back to their former position, 869–880——Object of adopting the circular of 1849; how far it was framed from witness's suggestion of its necessity, 881, 882——Remarks as to the recommendations made by the committee of revision in 1848; this committee only made a private report to the Admiralty, 883, 885.

Particulars as to the documents furnished to Mr. Wells on his probationary appointment as master smith at Portsmouth; he did not receive his warrant of appointment at that time, 886–900——Satisfactory manner in which Cotsell performed his duties during the short time he was master smith at Portsmouth, 901——Since the replacement of James Wells he is still on probation; warrant dated 27 January 1853, appointing him to the office of master smith; on Wells's first probationary appointment he ought to have received the Admiralty warrant, 902–906.

[Fifth Examination.]—Extract from a letter from Commodore Seymour, dated 27 April 1852, with respect to the promotion of labourers at Devonport Yard, 1129, 1130——Letter from Captain Richards, superintendent of Chatham Dockyard, dated 9 April 1852, condemning the proposed promotion of Joseph Ridgway to be first-class man in the metal mills, on account of his incompetency, 1129, 1130——Correspondence between Mr. W. D. Eden and Mr. G. Black as to the appointment of Mr. Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth, 1129.

[Sixth Examination.]—Letter from Admiral Parker to witness, dated 2 May 1853, with respect to the permission given him to read the three letters on the subject of the master smith to the Cammittee, 1425——Letter from Mr. Stafford to witness, dated 28 November 1852, upon the subject of the motion of Admiral Berkeley for correspondence between the Surveyor and the Admiralty, 1425.

[Seventh Examination.]—Reference to the conversations which have passed between witness and Mr. Collings relative to the transfer of Mr. Cotsell from Chatham to Portsmouth; at that time witness saw no objection to his being so transferred, 1445–1458——It is considered desirable that an officer should never go back to a yard in which he has held an inferior appointment, from the feeling that he would not have that influence over the workmen which is necessary; this was the reason of Admiral Parker objecting to Mr. Cotsell's transfer to Portsmouth, 1451, 1452. 1466–1468——Remarks relative to Mr. Cotsell's memorial of 2 April 1852, for the vacant office of master smith at Portsmouth,

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1459-1476. 1487——It was the opinion of the committee of revision that it was objectionable to put a man in a higher station in a yard where he had acted in an inferior grade; this rule has been acted upon by the Admiralty whenever it has been possible; the same rule is observed as to appointments in ships, 1477-1486——Statement as to the practice in regard to reports and memorials received by the Surveyor of the Navy, from the dockyards, as to forwarding them to the Admiralty, 1487-1492.

[Eighth Examination.]—Under the circular of 1849, when two names came up from the superintendent of a yard for selection, witness merely made a submission as to the most deserving, 3487, 3488. 3508-3513——The circular of 1849 was issued in consequence of its being considered that it would be more convenient if the submissions from the superintendents passed through witness's hands previous to being sent to the Admiralty, 3489-3491——Circumstances under which the management and responsibility of the dockyard estimates were transferred to witness, 3491-3493—— The reports from the foreign yards were formerly sent to witness, and by him sent to the Admiralty; since the circular repealing the order of 1849 these reports have not come through witness's office, 3494, 3495——Observations as to the appointment of an engine-fitter to the yard at Malta by Mr. Stafford; witness was not consulted upon this appointment, nor was he aware of the vacancy, 3495-3507.

With regard to the vacancy caused by the removal of Ridgway, the superintendent has been ordered to select a competent person from the private trade for the metal mills, 3504, 3505——Witness never considered that he had the patronage of the dockyards under the circular of 1849; 3511-3513——Witness has never allowed any one in his department to use private influence for the advantage of their friends, 3513-3520—— Since the issue of the circular of 19 April, the submissions from the superintendents of dockyards have been sent direct to the Admiralty; they have never been sent from the Admiralty to witness for his opinion, 3520-3523——Statement as to a submission made by witness by the direction of the First Lord, with respect to the case of a master smith on the retirement of Mr. Fincham; the papers are both approved by the First Lord and Admiral Parker, 3524, 3525.

[Ninth Examination.]—With regard to the statement of Mr. Stafford as to the pressure upon him by certain members of the Government as to the promotions in the dockyards, witness is positive that upon two occasions he mentioned the names of Lord Derby and the Chancellor of the Exchequer as being the parties referred to; upon one occasion Admiral Parker was present, 3893-3903——Witness has a perfect recollection of the interview he had with Admiral Parker and Mr. Stafford, when the former had witness's letter of resignation in his hand; the purport of that letter was the subject of conversation 3904-3909—— Great advantage of the system of examination of shipwrights in the dockyards, to ascertain their qualifications previous to promotion; Mr. Fincham must be under a wrong impression when he states the practice to have been discontinued at Portsmouth, 3910-3913.

[Tenth Examination.]—Witness received no notice of the issue of the circular of 19 April from the Admiralty; he was first made acquainted with it by the returns from the dockyards on the 21st April, 3944——The papers received from the Admiralty are all entered and numbered; had witness received any notice from the Admiralty it would be with those documents, or had it been abstracted it would be missed on account of its number, 3944-3950.

[Eleventh Examination.]—Further remarks as to the message delivered to witness by Mr. Grant from Mr. Stafford proposing that he should not submit the names for certain vacancies in Devonport Dockyard as Mr. Stafford wished to serve two of his party, 4379-4388——Circumstances under which the letter was written and sent to the Admiralty, by witness, without the copies of the correspondence applied for; mediation of Captain Milne between Mr Stafford and witness with a view of inducing witness to withhold the correspondence 4389-4398——No interview ever took place between the Duke of Northumberland, Admiral Parker, and witness upon the subject of the circular of the 26th April, when witness expressed himself quite satisfied, 4398-4417.

Witness expressed himself to Admiral Parker as satisfied with the circular of 26 April, so far as it removed the imputation on his character; but as regards the interests of the public service, he was not satisfied, 4414-4417——Explanation as to the interview that took place between Admiral Parker, Mr. Stafford, and witness, upon the subject of witness's letter tendering his resignation, 4418-4421——Witness sent his letter of 21 April to the Admiralty, through Admiral Parker; witness's full impression was that the letter would be laid before the Board as a *bonâ fide* tender of resignation, 4422-4434—— Witness's letters to the Admiralty in November were not transmitted through Admiral Parker, but were sent in the usual way, 4435, 4436.

[Twelfth

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

Walker, Sir Baldwin. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

[Twelfth Examination.]—Returns as to the correspondence direct from the dockyards to the Surveyor, respecting the promotions, vacancies, &c., in the dockyards, 4849-4851 ——The circular of 1849 being reverted to, the submissions from the superintendents are now sent to witness, and forwarded with his submissions to the Admiralty, 4852-4854.

[Thirteenth Examination.]—Witness delivered the copies of the correspondence applied for to Mr. Stafford on 29 November; after that interview witness returned to Somerset House and sent the letter, which did not refer to the correspondence, enclosed; this was after witness saw Captain Milne, who wished him not to send the copies, 4866, 4867—— Had it not been for the interference of Captain Milne in the matter, witness would have sent in the copies of the correspondence, 4868.

Walker, Sir Baldwin. See *Resignation of the Surveyor. Surveyor of the Navy.*

Ward, Sir Henry. The result of the inquiry into the working of the system of promotions established by Sir Henry Ward was most satisfactory, *Milne* 600, 601.

See also *Parker, Mr.*

Warren, Admiral. Presence of Mr. Tufnell and Admiral Dundas at the house of Admiral Warren, at the time of an election for Devonport; witness does not impute any political interference to Admiral Warren whilst superintendent of the dockyards, *Beer* 4833-4835.

Wells, Mr.:

1. *Evidence as to the Appointment of Mr. Wells as Master Smith at Portsmouth, and his subsequent Removal from that Office.*
2. *Observations with respect to the Warrant of Appointment of Mr. Wells; how far such a Warrant was ever made out.*
3. *Remarks relative to the Re-appointment of Mr. Wells to Portsmouth.*

1. *Evidence as to the Appointment of Mr. Wells as Master Smith at Portsmouth, and his subsequent Removal from that Office:*

Observations generally of the Committee as to the circumstances connected with the appointment of Mr. James Wells as master smith in the dockyard of Portsmouth, the subsequent cancelling thereof, and the appointment of Mr. George Cotsell in his stead, *Rep.* xii, xiii——Circumstances attending the appointment of Mr. Wells to be master smith at the Portsmouth Dockyard from the private trade; minute, signed by witness, approving of the submission of the Surveyor of the Navy in reference to the appointment of Mr. Wells, *Sir H. Parker* 419-438. 455——Evidence relative to witness's letter of 9 September 1852, to the Board of Admiralty, recommending James Wells for the office of master smith at Portsmouth, he being a person taken from a private yard, *Sir B. Walker* 735 *et seq.* 767-780——The decision of the Admiralty, that a person from a private yard should be appointed to Portsmouth, was communicated to witness by Admiral Parker, and witness received an order from him to select a person from the private trade, *ib.* 737-745. 762-766. 847, 848——Dismissal of Mr. Wells from Portsmouth on 2 October 1852, he being superseded in his appointment by George Cotsell, *ib.* 786, 787——Application made by Mr. Wells to witness with respect to his dismissal from Portsmouth; memorial forwarded by witness to the Admiralty; witness received no reply to that communication, but a letter, in answer to the memorial, was received by Mr. Wells, *ib.* 787, 788. 811-816. 830-835.

Examination of James Wells by Mr. Lloyd, the chief engineer, before witness submitted his recommendation to the Admiralty; opinion of Mr. Lloyd as to his competency to fill the office of master smith at Portsmouth, *Sir B. Walker* 787. 789-795. 836-840——On making inquiries at Portsmouth witness learnt that Mr. Wells gave universal satisfaction during his short period of probation *ib.* 796-799——Witness considered the letter of 10 September 1852, from the Admiralty, as sanctioning his selection of James Wells from the private trade, *ib.* 849——In recommending any person for promotion witness considers it his duty to give the preference to any one already in the service; there was no person competent to fill the office of master smith at Portsmouth at the time witness recommended James Wells from the private trade, *ib.* 864, 865. 868——Witness distinctly remembers receiving the submission of the Surveyor of the Navy, recommending Mr. Wells, dated 9th September 1853; the letter of submission in Parliamentary Paper 271, p. 1, is an exact copy of it, *Stafford* 968, 969——Correspondence between Mr. W. D. Eden and Mr. G. Black as to the appointment of Mr. Wells to be master smith at Portsmouth Dockyard, *Sir B. Walker* 1129.

Witness saw the submission of the Surveyor recommending Mr. Wells, the latter end of September; this paper has since been lost *Stafford* 1695-1704——Witness attaches no importance to the documents recommending Wells being signed by the initials of

Report, 1852-53—*continued.*

WELLS, MR.—continued.

1. *Evidence as to the Appointment of Mr. Wells, &c.*—continued.

Admiral Parker, as he considers Admiral Parker stepped out of his department by so initialing it, *Stafford* 1790-1792——Remarks as to how far Mr. Wells may have been led to expect the Portsmouth appointment; he received no official notice of any such appointment, *ib.* 1827-1836——Witness has no knowledge as to what became of the documents having relation to the appointment of Wells, *ib.* 1885-1887——Opinion that the appointment of Wells by Admiral Parker was irregularly made, *Duke of Northumberland* 3199-3208; *Hon A. Duncombe* 4460, 4461——Examination of Mr. Wells by witness as to his qualifications for the office of master smith at Portsmouth, the result of which was that witness considered him to be a desirable man for the smithery, *Lloyd* 3589-3604.

2. *Observations with respect to the Warrant of Appointment of Mr. Wells; how far such a Warrant was ever made out:*

On 10 September 1852, witness received a letter from the Board of Admiralty containing the probationary appointment of James Wells, *Sir B. Walker* 781-785——Documents furnished to Mr. Wells on his probationary appointment as master smith at Portsmouth; he did not receive his warrant of appointment at that time, *ib.* 886-900——Entry contained in the General Minute Book of 10 September 1852, referring to the appointment of Mr. Wells; there is no entry of the kind in the Board Minute Book, *Houghton* 921-925——Evidence relative to the acting warrant made out by witness, about 15 September, appointing James Wells master smith at Portsmouth, on probation; authority under which witness made out that warrant; the warrant was sent up to the Board-room for signature, *Bell* 928-952——Particulars as to the warrant appointing James Wells master smith at Portsmouth coming before Captain Hamilton for signature; Captain Hamilton declined to sign the warrant in the absence of Mr. Stafford, the minute of the appointment having been made by Admiral Parker, *Piers* 954-959——Witness was desired to keep possession of those papers until the return of Mr. Stafford to the Admiralty, when he handed them over to him, *ib.* 960-967.

To the best of witness's belief, the warrant for the appointment of Mr. Wells was never made out; witness is certain it was never signed, *Stafford* 970-972——Witness denies having stated that when at the Admiralty he saw Mr. Wells' appointment lying on the table, *Cotsell* 1035-1037——Statement made to witness, by Mr. Cotsell, that with regard to his visit to the Admiralty, upon the subject of the Portsmouth appointment, he was just in time to prevent the signature of Mr. Wells' appointment, and secure his own, *Scott* 1051-1060. 1079, 1080——Interview witness had with Mr. Cotsell at the Admiralty, upon the subject of the Portsmouth appointment; witness is confident that Mr. Cotsell did not see Mr. Wells' appointment upon that occasion; opinion that this interview took place previous to Mr. Cotsell's appointment, *Piers* 1103. 1106-1117——Denial of the evidence of Mr. Scott with respect to witness's visit to the Admiralty; witness did not see the appointment of Mr. Wells, nor any other papers, on that occasion, *Cotsell* 1126-1128——Opinion that the superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard, in admitting Mr. Wells without a warrant, committed an irregularity; the letter from the Lords of the Admiralty, signed by Captain Hamilton, was not an authorization to the superintendent to employ Wells, *Stafford* 1757-1789.

With respect to the warrant appointing Wells to Portsmouth, it was kept back, and not signed by Captain Hamilton at witness's request; witness desired him not to let any appointment belonging to him go forward in his absence, *Stafford* 1867-1879——Witness has heard what took place at Portsmouth with regard to the admission of Mr. Wells; if he had produced to witness the letter that he did, witness would have accepted him without hesitation, *H. Eden* 3282. 3444——Explanation as to witness having inadvertently signed the letter naming Wells as master smith for Portsmouth; how far witness had any discretion in the signing or withholding of letters, *Hamilton* 3454-3471——How far witness kept back the appointment of Wells, in compliance with the request of Mr. Stafford to look after his patronage during his absence from the Admiralty, *ib.* 3472-3478——All the papers and documents in relation to the appointment of Wells were given by witness into the possession of Mr. Piers, *ib.* 3479-3481——Copy of the warrant of appointment of James Wells, dated 27 January 1853, *App.* 370.

3. *Remarks relative to the Re-appointment of Mr. Wells to Portsmouth:*

Under the present Board of Admiralty, Mr. Wells has been restored to Portsmouth and Mr. Cotsell remanded to Chatham, *Rep.* xiii——Remarks as to the letter from the Admiralty to James Wells, dated 27 January 1853, stating their Lordships' intention to replace him in the situation of master smith at Portsmouth; full inquiry instituted by Sir James Graham into the case, which led to this result, *Sir B. Walker* 853-863——Observations as to several men who had been promoted on the dismissal of Mr. Wells; the replacement of Wells sends these men back to their former position, *ib.* 869-880——Since the replacement of James Wells he is still on probation; warrant, dated 27 January 1853,

Report, 1852–53—*continued.*

Wells, Mr.—continued.

3. *Remarks relative to the Re-appointment of Mr. Wells to Portsmouth*—continued.

1853, appointing him to the office of master smith; on Wells' first probationary appointment, he ought to have received the Admiralty warrant, *Sir B. Walker* 902–906——Correspondence relative to the reappointment of Mr. Wells to the office of master smith at Portsmouth, *App.* 369, 370.

See also *Cotsell, Mr.* *Memorials.* *Parker, Admiral.*

Woolwich Dockyard. Great advantage which resulted from the introduction of the modes of working adopted in private establishments into Woolwich Dockyard, *Rep.* xiii; *Sir B. Walker* 745–752——Rumours existing that political influence was at work in Woolwich Dockyard as to promotions, which was not the case, *H. Eden* 3339, 3340——Number of men on the establishment at Woolwich; number of convicts; the establishment is under the mark for the work to be done, *ib.* 3342–3355——Witness has visited the Woolwich smitheries since they have been under the management of a person from the private trade; opinion that they have not improved under that management, and that there is a great waste of fuel, *Fincham* 3808–3820——Return of persons recommended for promotion or advancement between 1 March and 31 December 1852, but who were passed over in their order of merit, *App.* 379.

See also *Apprentices.* *Black, Mr. George.* *Canvass of Dockyard Voters.* *Labourers.* *Private Trade.*

Wotton, Algernon. Particulars as to the promotion of Algernon Wotton, from second class leading-man of storehouses at Plymouth, to superintendent of watering-place at Bovisand; witness never sent up his name, or recommended him to the Admiralty, *Rich* 3576–3579.

REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

DOCKYARD APPOINTMENTS,

ON THE CASE OF

LIEUTENANT ENGLEDUE;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX AND INDEX.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
22 *July* 1853.

Martis, 19° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Circumstances under which a "Circular sent to the Superintendent of Her Majesty's Dockyards, dated September 26th, 1849," was Cancelled on the 19th day of April 1852, without any Order or Minute of the Board: also, to inquire into the circumstances under which a Letter addressed by Sir Baldwin Walker to Mr. Stafford, as Secretary to the Admiralty, in which Letter Sir Baldwin Walker tendered his Resignation, as Surveyor of the Navy, was withheld from the Board: also, into the Circumstances connected with the Appointment of Mr. James Wells, as Master Smith, in the Dockyard at Portsmouth, the subsequent Cancelling thereof, and the appointment of Mr. George Cotsell in his stead: and generally into the exercise of the influence and patronage of the Admiralty in the Dockyards and Government Departments connected with the several Parliamentary Boroughs.

Veneris, 22° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

Committee Nominated, of—

Sir Benjamin Hall.	Sir Henry Ferguson Davie.
Lord Seymour.	Mr. Beckett.
Lord Hotham.	

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Lunæ, 23° *die Maii*, 1853.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to Report their Observations, together with the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, to The House.

Sabbati, 30° *die Aprilis*, 1853.

Ordered, That the Return respecting the case of Lieutenant Engledue, R.N. (presented 11th April) be referred to the Committee.

Lunæ, 30° *die Maii*, 1853.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee to consider the Return referred to them on the 30th day of April last, and the circumstances connected therewith, and to report their opinion thereupon.

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REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the Circumstances under which a Circular sent to the Superintendents of Her Majesty's Dockyards, dated September 26th, 1849, was Cancelled on the 19th of April 1852, without any Order or Minute of the Board: also, to inquire into the Circumstances under which a Letter addressed by Sir Baldwin Walker to Mr. Stafford, as Secretary to the Admiralty, in which Letter Sir Baldwin Walker tendered his Resignation, as Surveyor of the Navy, was withheld from the Board: also, into the Circumstances connected with the Appointment of Mr. James Wells as Master Smith in the Dockyard at Portsmouth, the subsequent Cancelling thereof, and the appointment of Mr. George Cotsell in his stead; and generally into the exercise of the Influence and Patronage of the Admiralty in the Dockyards and Government Departments connected with the several Parliamentary Boroughs, and to whom the Return respecting the Case of Lieutenant Engledue, R. N. (presented 11th April), was referred; and who were empowered to send for Persons, Papers, and Records, and to report their Observations, together with the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, to The House; and who were instructed to consider the said Return, and the Circumstances connected therewith, and to report their Opinion thereupon;——HAVE, pursuant to the said Instruction, further considered the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:

IT appears that Lieutenant Engledue was struck off the list of the Royal Navy in the year 1840, and that, after having made several unsuccessful applications for restoration, he was replaced on the list in January 1853. *See* Paper No. 333, of Sess. 1853.

The question therefore which has been referred to Your Committee, and upon which they are required to report their opinion, involves two considerations:

First, Whether Lieutenant Engledue was rightly removed from the list in 1840?

Second, Whether he was rightly restored to the list in January 1853?

In the year 1840, a notice in the usual form was sent by the Board of Admiralty to Lieutenant Engledue, acquainting that officer that he must hold himself in readiness to serve. In reply to this notice, Lieutenant Engledue wrote a letter to the Board of Admiralty, stating that if he were to be appointed a commander, he could be ready immediately; but if he were required to serve as a lieutenant he could not accept the appointment, from the urgent nature of his private affairs. Subsequently he was ordered to join a ship, which he refused, having in the meantime, without having applied for or obtained the permission of the Admiralty, accepted employment under the Peninsular and Oriental Company. For this conduct Lieutenant Engledue was struck off the list of the Royal Navy.

The course pursued by the Admiralty in this case was in accordance with an invariable rule whenever an officer declines to serve. Moreover, the letter written by Lieutenant Engledue was an additional offence, inasmuch as he endeavoured to impose a condition on the Board of Admiralty and to stipulate for his promotion.

188. All the witnesses concur in stating that Lieutenant Engledue was justly struck off the list; he himself admitted to Your Committee that his letter to the Admiralty was indefensible, and that if he had exercised authority at the Admiralty,
494. he should have acted towards any other officer as the Board of Admiralty had acted towards himself.

During the following years, Mr. Engledue made numerous applications to be restored to his former rank in the navy. These applications were by successive Boards of Admiralty refused. In the month of June 1852, the late Board of Admiralty twice declined to entertain his application. Undeterred by these refusals, Mr. Engledue forwarded another memorial to the Admiralty, on the
201. 30th of November 1852; and upon this occasion the Board decided that the
41. case should be again specially considered, and that for this purpose the papers
46. should be circulated amongst the members of the Board, so that each Lord might have an opportunity of separately reviewing their former decision.

It has been stated to Your Committee that the Lords of the Admiralty did not
139. agree as to the course which should be adopted, but that four Lords, the majority of the Board, decided in favour of the restoration of Mr. Engledue to his former
See Parl. Paper, No. 333. rank in the navy. This decision was on the 22d of December, and accordingly
95. on that day a letter was written by the direction of the Board, informing Mr. Engledue that he was at liberty to memorialize Her Majesty in Council for restoration to the rank of lieutenant. On the 3d of January 1853, the Lords of
53. the Admiralty recommended Her Majesty in Council to comply with the prayer
57. 58. of the memorialist. The Order in Council sanctioning the restoration of Mr. Engledue was dated on the 4th of January.

Your Committee endeavoured to ascertain the practice of the Admiralty in regard to the restoration of officers who had been struck off the list. Lieutenant
508. Engledue mentioned some instances, and although in many particulars his infor-
514. mation was proved to be erroneous, yet it appears that in some cases officers
See Appendix. have been struck off, and afterwards restored to the list. For the detail of these
261. cases Your Committee must refer to the Evidence, and to the letters in the
618. Appendix.

The Lords of the Admiralty who concurred in the restoration of Lieutenant
122. 222. Engledue state, as the grounds for their opinion, the admitted ability of that
130. officer, his acknowledged efficiency, which is proved by several testimonials in in his favour, and the length of time during which he had been deprived of his rank.

On the other hand, it has been stated that Lieutenant Engledue had committed a grave offence by his letter to the Admiralty, as well as by his refusal to
18. serve, and that the circumstances attending his refusal aggravated his fault. It
88. is said that his restoration will afford a precedent for other applications, and will be injurious to the interests of the service.

Lieutenant Engledue was restored to his former rank without having acknowledged the impropriety of his conduct, and without having expressed any regret
569. for his letter of August 1840. It appears from his statements to Your Committee, that notwithstanding his recent restoration, he is not now at once prepared to serve, and that if he were ordered to join a ship, his compliance with
570. such an order would be a matter for his own consideration. He regards his previous services as entitling him to the boon of half-pay, without reference to any future obligations.

It is obvious that this opinion of the purposes for which half-pay is granted is neither in accordance with the usage of the service nor with the intentions of Parliament.

Your Committee directed their attention to the time at which the letter was written authorising Lieutenant Engledue to memorialize Her Majesty in Council. This letter was written on the 22d December 1852. The late Government had, on the previous 20th of December, announced in both Houses of Parliament the resignation of their offices. Your Committee have not, however, heard any evidence which shows that this favour was bestowed from any political or unworthy motives.

Since

Since by the terms of reference Your Committee are required to report their own opinion upon this case, they must observe, that they consider Lieutenant Engledue's dismissal in the year 1840 to have been strictly in conformity with the practice of the Admiralty; they do not underrate the former merits of Lieutenant Engledue as a zealous and efficient officer, but having ascertained that Lieutenant Engledue was dismissed in consequence of his refusal to obey the orders of the Admiralty, and having heard from himself in the course of this investigation that, although now restored to his former rank, he still holds it as a matter for his own consideration whether he will or will not comply with any demands which may hereafter be made upon him for his services, Your Committee are of opinion that the restoration of Mr. Engledue to his former rank in the Royal Navy was not a judicious proceeding.

26 *July* 1852.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Veneris, 24° *die Junii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord SEYMOUR in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Sir H. F. Davie.
Sir B. Hall.	Mr. Beckett.

[Adjourned to Friday, at Twelve o'clock.

Veneris, 1° *die Julii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord SEYMOUR in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Sir H. F. Davie.
Sir B. Hall.	Mr. Beckett.

Rear Admiral the Honourable *M. F. Berkeley*, M.P.; Captain the Honourable *Arthur Duncombe*, M.P.; Admiral Sir *Thomas Herbert*, M.P.; Mr. *John H. Hay*; Mr. *Arthur Anderson*; Vice Admiral *Hyde Parker*; Mr. *John H. Jesse*; examined.

Adjourned till Tuesday, at Twelve o'clock.

Martis, 5° *die Julii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord SEYMOUR in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Sir B. Hall.
Sir H. F. Davie.	Mr. Beckett.

Captain the Honourable *Arthur Duncombe*, M.P.; Captain *Milne*; Lieutenant *Engledue*, R.N.; Mr. *Andrew Lamb*; Mr. *John H. Jesse*; examined.

Adjourned.

Mercurii, 20° die Julii, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord SEYMOUR in the Chair.

Lord Hotham.	Sir H. F. Davie.
Sir B. Hall.	Mr. Beckett.

Draft Report proposed by Chairman, read 1° as follows:

"It appears that Lieutenant Engledue was struck off the list of the Royal Navy in the year 1840, and that, after having made several unsuccessful applications for restoration, he was replaced on the list in January 1853.

"The question therefore which has been referred to Your Committee, and upon which they are required to report their opinion, involves two considerations:

"First, Whether Lieutenant Engledue was rightly removed from the list in 1840?

"Second, Whether he was rightly restored to the list in January 1853?

"In the year 1840, a notice in the usual form was sent by the Board of Admiralty to Lieutenant Engledue, acquainting that officer that he must hold himself in readiness to serve. In reply to this notice, Lieutenant Engledue wrote a letter to the Board of Admiralty, stating that if he were to be appointed a commander, he could be ready immediately; but if he were required to serve as a lieutenant, he could not accept the appointment, from the urgent nature of his private affairs. Subsequently, he was ordered to join a ship, which he refused, having in the meantime, without the permission of the Admiralty, accepted employment under the Peninsular and Oriental Company. For this conduct Lieutenant Engledue was struck off the list of the Royal Navy.

"The course pursued by the Admiralty in this case was in accordance with an invariable rule, whenever an officer declines to serve. Moreover, the letter written by Lieutenant Engledue was an additional offence, inasmuch as he endeavoured to impose a condition on the Board of Admiralty, and to stipulate for his promotion.

"All the witnesses concur in stating that Lieutenant Engledue was justly struck off the list; he himself admitted to Your Committee that his conduct was indefensible, and that if he had exercised authority at the Admiralty, he should have acted towards any other officer as the Lords of the Admiralty had acted towards himself.

"During the following years, Mr. Engledue made numerous applications to be restored to his former rank in the Navy. These applications were, by successive Boards of Admiralty, refused. In the month of June 1852, the late Board of Admiralty twice declined to entertain his application. Undeterred by former refusals, Mr. Engledue forwarded another memorial to the Admiralty, on the 30th of November 1852; and upon this occasion the Lords of the Admiralty decided that the documents relating to his case should be circulated, so that each Lord might have an opportunity of separately considering the application.

"It has been stated to Your Committee that the Lords of the Admiralty did not agree as to the course which should be adopted, but four lords, the majority of the Board, decided in favour of the restoration of Mr. Engledue to his former rank in the navy. This decision was on the 22d of December, and accordingly on that day a letter was written by the direction of the Board, informing Mr. Engledue that he was at liberty to memorialize Her Majesty in Council for restoration to the rank of lieutenant. On the 3d of January 1853, the Lords of the Admiralty forwarded the memorial to Her Majesty in Council, recommending a compliance with the prayer of the memorialist. The Order in Council sanctioning the restoration of Mr. Engledue was dated on the 4th of January.

"Your Committee endeavoured to ascertain the practice of the Admiralty in regard to the restoration of officers who had been struck off the list. Lieutenant Engledue mentioned some instances, and although in many important particulars his information was proved to be erroneous, yet it appears that in some cases officers have been struck off, and afterwards restored to the list.

"For the detail of these cases Your Committee must refer to the Evidence, and to the letters in the Appendix.

"The Lords of the Admiralty who concurred in the restoration of Lieutenant Engledue state, as the grounds for their opinion, the admitted ability of that officer, and his acknowledged efficiency, which is proved by several testimonials in his favour.

"On the other hand, it has been stated that Lieutenant Engledue had committed a grave offence by his letter to the Admiralty, as well as by his refusal to serve, and that the circumstances

cumstances attending his refusal aggravated his fault. It is said that his restoration will afford a precedent for other applications, and will be injurious to the interests of the service.

"Lieutenant Engledue was restored to his former rank without having acknowledged the impropriety of his conduct, and without having expressed any regret for his letter of August 1840. It appears from his statements to Your Committee, that he is not now prepared to serve as a lieutenant, and that if he were ordered to join a ship, his compliance with such an order cannot be depended upon. He considers that his previous services entitle him to the boon of half-pay without reference to any future obligations.

"It is obvious that this opinion of the purposes for which half-pay is granted does not accord with the intentions of Parliament.

"Your Committee directed their attention to the time at which the letter was written authorising Lieutenant Engledue to memorialize Her Majesty in Council. This letter was written on the 22d December 1852. The late Government had, on the previous 20th of December, announced in both Houses of Parliament the resignation of their offices.

"Your Committee have not perceived in the case of Lieutenant Engledue any special circumstances which entitled him to this exercise of favour by a Board of Admiralty who were only holding office until the appointment of their successors. Your Committee have not, however, heard any evidence which shows that this favour was bestowed from any unworthy motives. Since by the terms of reference Your Committeee are required to state their own opinion, they must observe, that without underrating the former merits of Lieutenant Engledue as a zealous and efficient officer, they consider that the letter of the 22d December was an injudicious proceeding on the part of the late Board of Admiralty."

Draft Report read 2° paragraph by paragraph.

The Committee proceeded in the same, with amendments.

Last paragraph read and amended by striking out from the beginning of the paragraph to the word "Your," in line 3, and by inserting the words "political or" after the word "any" in line 4. Amendment proposed (*Lord Hotham*) to leave out from the word "motives," in line 5, to the end of the paragraph, in order to add the words following: "Having therefore abstained, for reasons stated in the evidence, from insisting on the production of the circulation papers which contain in detail the grounds upon which the decision of every member of the Board was given, and having moreover only thought it necessary to examine four out of the six members present when the restoration of Lieutenant Engledue was decided on, Your Committee cannot undertake to pronounce an opinion on this case, which is a case of purely official discretion, and upon which every member of the Board was bound to decide according to the best exercise of his judgment." Question, "That the word 'since' stand part," put. The Committee divided:

Ayes, 3.	Noe, 1.
Sir B. Hall.	Lord Hotham.
Sir H. F. Davie.	
Mr. Beckett.	

Words further amended, and read as a separate paragraph, as follows: "Since by the terms of reference Your Committee are required to report their own opinion upon this case, they must observe, that they consider Lieutenant Engledue's dismissal in the year 1840 to have been strictly in conformity with the practice of the Admiralty; they do not underrate the former merits of Lieutenant Engledue as a zealous and efficient officer, but having ascertained that Lieutenant Engledue was dismissed in consequence of his refusal to obey the orders of the Admiralty, and having heard from himself in the course of this investigation that, although now restored to his former rank, he still holds it as a matter for his own consideration whether he will or will not comply with any demands which may hereafter be made upon him for his services, Your Committee are of opinion that the restoration of Mr. Engledue to his former rank in the Royal Navy was not a judicious proceeding." Question, "That this paragraph stand part of the proposed Report," put. The Committee divided:

Ayes, 3.	Noe, 1.
Sir B. Hall.	Lord Hotham.
Sir H. F. Davie.	
Mr. Beckett.	

Report as amended agreed to.

Ordered, To Report, together with the Minutes of Evidence.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Veneris, 1° *die Julii*, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.
Mr. Beckett.
Sir H. F. Davie.
Sir Benjamin Hall.
Lord Hotham.

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. *M. F. F. Berkeley*, a Member of The House, Examined.

Rear-Admiral Hon. *M. F. F. Berkeley*, M. P.

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1. *Chairman*] WERE you one of the Lords of the Admiralty in October 1840?—I was in the Mediterranean, I think, in the year 1840.

2. Was it in 1842 that you were one of the Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes.

3. Was it in September 1842 that a memorial of Mr. Engledue was brought before the Admiralty?—I recollect its being brought before the Admiralty soon after I returned to the Board.

4. Lord *Hotham.*] Was it a memorial for restoration?—Yes.

5. *Chairman.*] It was a memorial from Mr. Engledue, to be restored to his position of lieutenant in the navy, was it not?—It was.

6. Do you remember the circumstances of the case, at the time?—Perfectly.

7. Will you state shortly to the Committee the circumstances in connexion with his application?—If I recollect rightly, Mr. Engledue applied to be restored on the ground of having been a very good gunnery officer, and having been highly recommended by several of the officers whom he had served under; I am not sure that he put forward any other claim.

8. Can you state what has been the practice of the Admiralty in regard to striking officers off the list?—There is an understanding with all officers, that they are not to quit the kingdom without having first obtained the permission of the Board; and when they are appointed to a ship, if they cannot assign some valid and good reason why they will not take up their commissions, then they are struck off the list by the Board.

9. It appears from a letter, dated the 24th of August 1840, written to Lieutenant Engledue, that, in the first place, he had acted irregularly by taking the command of a merchant vessel, without having first applied for permission from the Lords of the Admiralty?—That is quite correct.

10. Is it the general rule that no one is to take the command of a merchant vessel without having first obtained the permission of the Board of Admiralty?—Certainly.

11. Then, again, it appears that Lieutenant Engledue, upon being called upon to serve in August 1840, expressed a willingness to serve if they would appoint him a commander?—Yes; to promote him to be a commander.

12. Could you mention to the Committee any other cases that are at all parallel to the case of Lieutenant Engledue?—I may state that this very morning,

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ing, before I left the Board, I left with my colleagues the name of an officer to be struck off the list, for refusing to join a ship that I had appointed him to.

13. What rank of officer was he?—Lieutenant.

14. Is it frequently the case, then, that officers are struck off the list for refusing to join?—They are struck off the list; but I am happy to say that refusals are very scarce.

15. Lord *Hotham.*] What reason did this officer assign for refusing?—He assigned no reason, but he will not join.

16. *Chairman.*] In regard to surgeons of the navy, are they required in the same way to serve when called upon?—Always.

17. Has it not happened sometimes that they have got into practice, and have refused to join?—There are a great many that have got into practice, but if they refuse to serve, they are reported as refusing by the Director-general, and they would certainly be struck off the list; I think Mr. Jesse can give the Committee better information upon this subject, as he is at the head of the Commission department.

18. When an officer has been struck off, is he not occasionally restored to his former rank?—That must depend a great deal upon the circumstances; the manner, and the reasons he assigned at the time, or anything he may bring forward; but I must say with regard to Lieutenant Engledue, that he endeavoured to drive a bargain with the Admiralty, and it is to be recollected that it was at the time of the Syrian business, when we were fitting out an amazing number of ships, and gunnery lieutenants were in request; he refused to go, unless he was made a commander, and as far as I am concerned, I say that that was highly improper in an officer to attempt with the Board of Admiralty.

19. I understand from the first part of your answer, that there are cases in which officers having been struck off the list, are again restored?—I believe there are such instances.

20. Do you not remember any cases at present by which you could illustrate the sort of case which is taken into consideration, and which leads to the restoration of the officer?—No, I do not; it all depends upon the circumstances which he has to offer in extenuation of his breach of discipline.

21. Lord *Hotham.*] Cases of that kind are dealt with, are they not, in the same way as the cases of officers who have suffered from the sentence of courts martial?—Yes.

22. *Chairman.*] In the first page of Return No. 333, of this Session, is a letter signed by Mr. More O'Ferrall to Lieutenant Engledue, calling upon him to hold himself in readiness to join a ship; are you aware of the circumstances at that time?—Whenever an officer is appointed, there is a customary letter, and if you want an officer, and you know he is otherwise employed, you give him that warning before you call upon him.

23. This letter does not show or indicate that any previous correspondence had taken place with Lieutenant Engledue upon the subject?—That I am not aware of.

24. Lieutenant Engledue refers to the case of Mr. Waghorn, as being something similar to his own, and the reply is, that the case is entirely different from Lieutenant Waghorn's; as you were afterwards at the Board of Admiralty when Mr. Engledue applied to be restored, did you consider at the time his case as compared with that of Lieutenant Waghorn?—I am pretty certain that I did, but the exact circumstances have escaped my memory; but I am certain that I did compare the two, and that I did not think there was any resemblance whatever; but the exact circumstances of Lieutenant Waghorn's case I cannot remember.

25. Lord *Hotham.*] Was Lieutenant Waghorn struck off the list?—I think so.

26. And was he restored?—I think so, but the circumstances were totally different.

27. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You were at the Admiralty in 1842, were you not?—Yes.

28. *Chairman.*] In December 1851 you were also at the Board of Admiralty?—Yes.

29. At that time it appears that there was another application made by Lieutenant Engledue, to which the reply is, signed by Captain Hamilton, "Their Lordships are sorry they can see no reason to alter their decision in the case"?—Yes.

30. Then

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30. Then did you at that time again consider the former circumstances relating to Lieutenant Engledue?—Yes.

31. The Board of Admiralty then again, after considering them, although that time had elapsed, thought that the conduct of Lieutenant Engledue was such that he did not deserve to be restored?—Certainly.

32. Sir *B. Hall.*] The last application that was made by Lieutenant Engledue for his restoration, during the time that you held office, was in December 1851, was it not?—Yes, I believe that was the date.

33. It appears by the Parliamentary Paper, No. 333, which you have before you, that in the month of December 1851 Lieutenant Engledue applied to be reinstated, and that on the 11th of December Captain Hamilton, then acting as Secretary for the Admiralty, wrote a letter to Lieutenant Engledue, in which he stated that he was commanded by their Lordships to acquaint him that, after taking into consideration all the circumstances, they were unable to comply with his request; that was the case, was it not?—Yes.

34. And it appears also that on the 18th of December 1851 Lieutenant Engledue made another application in consequence of that refusal?—Yes.

35. And that that was again refused on the 26th of December 1851?—Yes.

36. On the 1st of January 1852 Lieutenant Engledue wrote again, and on the 21st of that month he received another refusal from Mr. Parker?—Yes.

37. All that took place during the time you were at the Admiralty?—I am free to admit that my memory is very bad about dates; I rather think I was there; I think one of those applications was made to another Board; I am not quite sure; I forget whether I was present.

38. I mean during the time you were a Lord of the Admiralty?—Yes, during the time I was a Lord of the Admiralty; I think three times; and it was refused.

39. That was the last application that was made during the time you were a member of the Board of Admiralty?—I believe it was.

40. It appears by this paper, that on the 9th of June 1852, during the administration of the Duke of Northumberland at the Admiralty, Lieutenant Engledue sent another memorial, and that in reply to it a letter was sent by Mr. Stafford, dated the 16th June 1852, in which he states that he is commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to state that they must abide by the former decision come to in the case of Lieutenant Engledue, and he was not restored up to that time?—Yes, that is so.

41. When matters of this kind are brought before the Board of Admiralty, is there any form of proceeding by which it may appear what the opinions of the Members of the Board are in reference to cases of this kind, as to the reinstatement of officers?—There was; Sir Francis Baring, I think, established a circular with the name of each member of the Board upon it, and it was sent round, and instead of conversing over it, each member gave his opinion upon the subject, whatever it might be, and when the whole of the opinions were collected, they were given to the First Lord, and then that subject was brought before the Board by him, and that was acted upon; but since Sir James Graham came into office, there was found to be some little inconvenience in members giving their opinions in writing, and that circular now goes round, and they merely write "read" upon it, and then it is considered at the Board after it has been so round. At the time of Lieutenant Engledue's business, there was a circular in which every member did write down his opinion.

42. Did that state of things exist in the month of June 1852?—It did.

43. Since you have returned to the Board, have you seen any document of that description, in reference to the case of Lieutenant Engledue; about that date?—I have seen the whole of the documents with regard to Lieutenant Engledue.

44. Would Mr. Hay be the proper person to produce those documents?—I hope the Committee will excuse me, but I feel rather some delicacy upon this subject, because those circulars were meant for the information of the First Lord; although the custom existed, they were meant for his information, and were acted upon when he had the whole of the opinions collected, and whether I should be quite right in giving individual opinions, I must leave to the Committee to say.

45. Is there any entry of the proceedings in the minute book?—None whatever, as to the opinions; the papers are put under a cover with the names of the

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Board, and then they used to write their opinions, and that was for the guidance of the first Lord.

46. *Chairman.*] It is a great advantage to the First Lord, for those purposes, to know the opinions of each individual Lord, is it not?—Certainly; in the case of Lieutenant Engledue, that was a case of long standing, and a great deal of correspondence had occurred, and you could not collect the whole of the evidence to satisfy yourself without reading through it; and the consequence was that the plan was adopted; but since Sir James Graham has been in office, inconveniences have been found to arise from it, and while the same thing goes on you do not commit your opinions to writing.

47. Lord *Hotham.*] You form your opinion, but you do not express it till you get to the Board?—No.

48. *Chairman.*] If the opinion, when formed and expressed in writing, was called for and made public, that might entail inconvenience?—Yes; exactly so.

49. Sir *B. Hall.*] Then it appears, as you have already stated, that on the 16th of June 1852, Mr. Stafford, when Secretary, acting under the directions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, refused to accede to the request made by Lieutenant Engledue?—Yes.

50. And I believe, on the 21st June 1852, Lieutenant Engledue wrote again to Mr. Stafford as Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes.

51. And on the 24th of the same month his request was refused, and he was referred to the previou refusals of the Board of Admiralty to reinstate him?—Yes.

52. By this same Parliamentary Paper, it appears that Lieutenant Engledue presented another memorial on the 30th of November 1852, and in answer to that he received a letter, dated the 22d of December 1852, informing him that he was at liberty to memorialise Her Majesty in Council for the boon which he asked for in his memorial?—Yes.

53. Is that the usual course which is taken when an officer has been struck off from the list, and when the Admiralty are favourable to his desire to be reinstated?—Certainly; they do not sanction his memorialising the Queen without they intend themselves to recommend the prayer of the petition.

54. Are there any minutes of the proceedings of the Board in reference to this transaction; any entries made in a book in order to show any reasons why he should have been permitted to memorialise the Queen in Council?—None that I know of.

55. Lord *Hotham.*] Is it the fact, that the Board has not the power to restore an officer?—They have the power to strike off, but not to restore.

56. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears that Lieutenant Engledue wrote from Southampton the day after he received permission to memorialise the Queen in Council, namely, on the 23d of December 1852, and a memorial of the same date appears to have been presented to the Queen in Council?—Yes.

57. It seems also that on the 28th of December 1852, Mr. Greville, the Clerk of the Council, transmitted the memorial of Lieutenant Engledue, dated the 23d of December, to the Lords of the Admiralty; and that on the 3d of January a recommendation was signed by the Duke of Northumberland and Sir Thomas Herbert, saying that they had taken the circumstances attending Lieutenant Engledue's removal into consideration, and they recommended Her Majesty's compliance with the prayer of the memorialist?—Yes.

58. Did this take place during the time that the late Board were in office, or after they went out of office?—The patent appointing the new Board was not complete. My writ for the city of Gloucester was the last, in consequence of my being the last to accede to take office; it was the last moved for; it was moved for on the 29th of December; Sir James Graham's, I think, for Carlisle, was on the 27th of December; but it is the custom and practice of the Board not to enter into new matters, not to carry on anything new, but merely the routine of the service, after it is known who the successors are to be. Sir Francis Baring and Lord Auckland carried it still further, for they would not allow a single thing to originate with the out-going Board from the hour they resigned their places. It appears that the custom was broken through here, because we had all accepted office. My writ was on the 29th of December, and those letters are dated the 3d, and the Order in Council is dated the 4th, and the Queen's pleasure was made known to us the first day we took our seats at the Board.

59. Do you recollect the date of the vote of the House of Commons, which led to the dissolution of the late Government?—No, I do not.

60. *Chairman.*] You stated, did you not, that you were the last to accept office, therefore I conclude from that that the 29th of December was the day on which you accepted office?—I did accept office some days before, but that was the day the writ was moved for, the 29th of December.

61. The Board of Admiralty was complete some days before the 29th of December?—Certainly.

62. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you remember the date of the writ for the city of Carlisle?—The 27th of December.

63. *Chairman.*] Do you know the date when the new Board first met?—The patent was dated the 5th of January, and the late Board sat for the last time on the 5th of January, and the new patent was read on the 6th of January at the new Board.

64. Sir *B. Hall.*] Do you know of any peculiar reasons which could have led to the reinstatement of Lieutenant Engledue?—None whatever.

65. It was stated in the House of Commons, that one reason for restoring him to the list of lieutenants was, that men were very likely to be required in considerable numbers, and it was desirable to have an officer holding the situation held by Lieutenant Engledue to facilitate the procuring of men for the navy at Southampton; from his position do you think that such an object could be carried out there?—Certainly not by an officer in the position of Lieutenant Engledue.

66. What position did he hold?—He held some office under the packets; he is managing director of the whole packet service there.

67. Of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company?—Yes; I believe Lieutenant Engledue could not serve two masters; he would have had quite enough to do to get men for his own packets; there are not many sailing ships, and Southampton is not a place where sailors haunt considerably, added to which we have a captain there who superintends the packets; he has nothing to do but to visit them occasionally, both in going out and coming home, I believe, and that captain, if the thing was necessary, being upon full pay, would have been perfectly equal to, and a very proper man to have undertaken such a duty as that if it had been required.

68. You consider the fact of Lieutenant Engledue's holding the situation he did under the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company would have been quite incompatible with his obtaining men for the navy?—Yes, totally incompatible with holding a rendezvous for men for the navy.

69. Lieutenant Engledue, in his memorial dated the 30th of November 1852, which was antecedent to his restoration, states, "that he can be instrumental in serving the Government at the Port of Southampton, and he can superintend the equipment of contract vessels suited to carry guns; to keep a register of men qualified to manage guns; to superintend the practical training of the various crews, and also the entering of men for Her Majesty's service." Now, if he had been reinstated, and held his position under the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, would he be able to do all these things, or would he be required to do these things which he sets forth?—I should say that he could not undertake all that he sets forth, and I think it would be a very useless attempt at such a place as Southampton.

70. What is the Admiralty staff now at Southampton?—There is a captain, and I believe he has got a cockswain and a clerk, or something of that sort; no large establishment. He is a captain upon full pay, borne upon the books of the flag-ship at Portsmouth.

71. And the clerk is the same?—Yes.

72. What are his duties there?—It is to see that the contracts made by the Admiralty are fulfilled upon the sailing of vessels, and that they are properly manned, and to inspect them, and report to the Admiralty whether they are, in his opinion, fit. He has very little to do.

73. Do you consider that this captain, who is borne on the books of the "Victory," would be quite competent to do all these things which are set forth by Lieutenant Engledue as inducements for his reinstatement?—Most assuredly.

74. During the time you have been a member of the Board of Admiralty, have you known of any case in which the Secretary of the Admiralty has been

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sent down by order of the Board, or has made an official visit to Southampton, in reference to Admiralty affairs?—Never, to the best of my knowledge; but I may say, that at any Board to which I have belonged no secretary would be so employed. If there had been anything of the sort required at Southampton it would have been a member of the Board, or, if you wished to make it still more official, two members of the Board, to go down and make any arrangements that were necessary.

75. During the whole of your experience no such visitation took place, and you consider that the staff and requirements at Southampton were not such as to call for a visit from any member of the Board?—Certainly not.

76. Can you inform the Committee, from any official documents of which you can state the contents to the Committee, what reasons there were for the reinstatement of Lieutenant Engledue?—I know of none whatever. It is contrary to the practice of the service, and, certainly, I look upon Lieutenant Engledue's refusal to be employed at the very moment we were fitting out a large fleet for the Mediterranean as not to be tolerated; and so long as I had to give my opinion upon the subject I never saw the least reason to go from my original decision.

77. Are the Committee to understand that the steps taken preparatory to the reinstatement of Lieutenant Engledue were taken between the time that the vote of the House was taken, which determined the fate of the Government, and the formation of the new Government?—It appears so by the documents I have seen at the Admiralty. I wish to correct one thing. I think I was wrong in saying that Sir Francis Baring was the person who originated the written opinions. I think it was done before he came into office. I am not sure that it was not in Lord Haddington's time. I do not think it was Sir Francis Baring.

78. Lord *Hotham.*] From what you have stated as to the practice of the service, namely, that no officer is ever told that he may memorialise the Queen without the Board having made up their mind to recommend him for the object which he has in view, would not any officer, on receiving that information, consider that his restoration, or whatever it might be, was promised to him?—It would amount to that. I do not know that there is any instance of the Admiralty giving permission to an officer to memorialise the Queen, without their recommending it to be taken into favourable consideration.

79. Therefore he would consider that his object, whatever it might be, was assured?—Certainly.

80. Mr. *Beckett.*] You state that you have no recollection of any officer being reinstated under similar circumstances?—Not under precisely similar circumstances.

81. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Lieutenant Engledue's last memorial was dated the 30th of November 1852, it appears?—Yes.

82. And no answer was sent to that till when?—Not till the 22d of December.

83. From your means of access to the Admiralty documents, are you led to suppose that the subject of that memorial lay dormant until the change of Government?—I cannot understand why the letter was not answered, and why so long a time elapsed. I cannot see any official reason why it should have been so. It is not the practice at the Admiralty to allow letters to remain unanswered any length of time.

84. There is no appearance of any notice having been taken of that memorial until this letter of the 22d of December?—Not that I am aware of.

85. *Chairman.*] You stated that before restoration was made of an officer to his former rank in the service, all the circumstances were taken carefully into consideration; could you mention any case of restoration, so that the Committee might judge of the sort of case?—I really cannot; striking off the list is considered a very serious thing. There is every fair inducement given to an officer to get him to join, as is the case in the instance that I alluded to.

86. Are the Committee to understand that you cannot remember now any exact case of restoration which you can mention to the Committee?—No, I cannot; I think in my time a commander, who ran his ship ashore at the back of the Isle of Wight, was broken by the sentence of a court martial; but in consequence of what took place, the severity of the weather, and his conduct when the ship was wrecked, I think he was restored after memorialising.

87. Can you recollect any case in which an officer has taken service under a company, or engaged himself in private trade, or anything else, and has afterwards been restored?—The Admiralty very often give permission, and then if he

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he has permission, he is not struck off. I think there was the case of a master, who took the command of an Indiaman, and was struck off the list. I do not believe he was restored.

88. Do you consider that the fact of having restored Lieutenant Engledue will render it hard upon other men who have in the same way, without permission, taken employment under companies, or in private affairs, and who would wish equally to be restored?—Of course it would; that was one point in considering that case; we considered that we were making a precedent under very strong circumstances, and that if we had acceded to it, we could not have done otherwise by other officers in the same position.

89. Are the Committee to understand, that when you are speaking of the general interests of the service, you consider that the restoration of Lieutenant Engledue was not only uncalled for in his own case, but was injurious to that service, as creating a bad precedent?—No doubt of it.

90. Lord *Hotham.*] The principal ground appears to have been his disobedience of orders?—Not only his disobedience of orders, but I may say the tone of Lieutenant Engledue's letter; his saying, "I am ready, if you promote me, but I will not go if you do not;" that was the amount of the letter.

91. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears by the letter that Lieutenant Engledue says, dating his letter from Liverpool, the 19th of August 1840, that if it is the intention of their Lordships to promote him to the rank of a commander, he is ready at five minutes' notice; but if he is to be continued in the list of lieutenants, then he declines to serve. Do you remember any case during the whole of your experience of any officer presuming to write to the Board in that way?—Certainly not.

Captain the Honourable *Arthur Duncombe*, R. N., called in; and Examined.

Capt. Hon. *A. Duncombe*, R. N.

92. *Chairman.*] YOU were one of the Lords of the Admiralty in June 1852, were you not?—I was.

93. Were you present at the Board, do you remember, when the application of Lieutenant Engledue was taken into consideration in June 1852?—I cannot quite call to mind whether I was or was not; but upon the occasion of that application being considered, the practice which Admiral Berkeley has adverted to was not put in force; namely, the circulation of the papers; it was merely mentioned amongst other business at the Board, and in a moment decided.

94. Then you cannot remember whether you were present at that Board in June, which led to the letter of Mr. Stafford, dated the 16th of June; a letter to Lieutenant Engledue, in which Mr. Stafford states that he is commanded by their Lordships to acquaint him that they must abide by the former decision come to in his case?—Yes. Not having gone to the Admiralty to look at any documents, I cannot say whether I was or was not present on that occasion.

95. In December 1852, there is a letter from Captain Hamilton to Lieutenant Engledue, saying that he was liberty to memorialise Her Majesty in Council for his restoration as lieutenant?—Yes.

96. Were you present at the Board from which that letter emanated?—Yes, I was. That decision was come to after the practice had been adopted of the circulation of the whole of the papers connected with this case to the different Lords of the Admiralty.

97. Had you, early in December 1852, considered that case carefully?—Yes.

98. Can you remember the date of the Board's decision?—I cannot give the positive date; but I have no doubt that the papers were put into circulation within a day or two after the 30th of November, which was the date of Lieutenant Engledue's last memorial. They would probably be a few days in course of circulation, during which each Lord would have an opportunity of considering the case, and writing his opinion upon the covering sheet, as it is called, of the circulation papers; therefore, although the letter of Captain Hamilton does not bear date before the 22d of December, it is not at all proved but that the decision may have been come to many days before that; but of course it was some date between the 30th of November and the 22d of December.

99. Then the papers circulated would show when the Lords had those papers under consideration?—Yes; that is to say, they would not show the date that each Lord received the papers giving his opinion; but they are dated at the top, showing the date on which those papers are put into circulation.

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100. Then you were at that time of opinion that Lieutenant Engledue ought to be restored?—Decidedly.

101. Will you state to the Committee the grounds upon which you came to that opinion?—I may say, that my first acquaintance with Lieutenant Engledue, I think, must have been either in the end of April, or the beginning of May 1852, when, going accidentally into Captain Hamilton's room upon business, I found him there, and he introduced me to him. Either Lieutenant Engledue himself, or Captain Hamilton, on that occasion said, that he was anxious for restoration, and had sent various memorials to the different Boards of Admiralty upon the subject. I, not knowing Lieutenant Engledue, upon hearing that, wishing to keep free and unfettered in any judgment which I might be called upon to give, immediately left the room. That, I think, was quite early in May; and in the course of the latter part of that summer or autumn, I think it was in September, I had occasion officially to visit Southampton, the packets generally being within my department; and I had of course then an opportunity of seeing more of Lieutenant Engledue, and of the manner in which he conducted the service there; and, in my judgment, the great order, the superiority and the cleanliness of the packets of the company to which he belonged, I admit made a very favourable impression upon me. I went a second time officially to Southampton, to go on board one of their large new ships, on a trial trip. Lieutenant Engledue went upon that trial trip, though not in command of the vessel, and I there saw the great regularity, and order, and efficiency of the whole of the crew and the departments generally in that ship, which strengthened my former opinion. Then, subsequently to this, in the month of November, when this memorial was put into circulation, I had no hesitation in giving my assent to his restoration to the service, considering that he had been 12 years scratched off the list for an offence, I admit, of a very grave nature, and which deserved severe punishment; I conceived that the punishment he had undergone, at the expiration of 12 years; seeing the efficiency of the vessels more immediately under his management, and also being aware of the anxiety of the then Government and the country to put into efficient order and to arm those large class steam-vessels, and thinking that Lieutenant Engledue, in his position at Southampton, might be of great service in that respect, I did not hesitate for one moment, after reading all the papers, to give my assent to his restoration to the service, thinking thereby that I was bringing back into it a very efficient, able, and gallant officer.

102. You stated that you first saw him in April or May 1852, in some person's room?—Yes; in Captain Hamilton's room.

103. In June, after that, it appears from this paper that Lieutenant Engledue was refused his restoration?—So it appears; and upon which you have already asked me a question, and I will not say whether I was or was not present on that occasion; but if I was, the circumstance would probably have been mentioned thus, "another memorial from Lieutenant Engledue"; there is a proper reluctance on the part of Boards hastily to alter or change the decisions of previous Boards.

104. You stated that you avoided seeing Lieutenant Engledue in April or May, because you felt it was undesirable to prejudge his case?—I avoided prolonging the interview with him for fear of being pressed upon the matter, as I was in a private room in his presence; and not only in his case, but in any other case, I should act in the same manner.

105. In September 1852, when you went down to Southampton, you visited his ships, and went to sea with him on a trial trip, did you not?—Yes, on one occasion.

106. And from seeing him in that way you were inclined to think very favourably of him?—Yes; from seeing the way in which the service was conducted under his management.

107. Did he, at that time, speak to you respecting his restoration?—Not one syllable on either occasion.

108. As you say you considered the circumstances of his case, can you mention any other cases that led you to consider it fair that he should be restored; any other cases of restorations which you considered as precedents?—I think I considered fully all the papers bearing upon this particular case, which were circulated; and I have invariably on every occasion, in the business of the Admiralty, considered each case upon its individual merits, and therefore I considered fully

fully this case of Lieutenant Engledue, and all matters relating thereto, and not in comparison with other cases, although I know there are many cases of officers being restored to the service after being scratched off the list; I therefore was rather surprised to hear Admiral Berkeley say that it was contrary to the practice of the service; for I may mention the case of Lord Dundonald, Sir Charles Napier, and more recently, Lieutenant Waghorn, and Captains Russell and Boyle, and a variety of officers who have all been scratched off the list for different offences, and after a time, at the discretion and judgment of the then Board of Admiralty, have been restored.

109. But any restoration by the Admiralty of an officer naturally establishes a precedent which would justify the application of other officers to be also restored, does it not?—I should not attribute a great deal of weight to that observation; I think the circumstances must be considered, and each case must stand upon its own particular merits; I do not see that because Lieutenant Engledue, being a very zealous and active officer, having given a great deal of attention to the steam gunnery of the service, and having very high testimonials which he has produced from various officers under whom he has served, and being in the prime of life, and capable of being of still further service to the country; I do not consider that his restoration necessarily entails the restoration of all other officers who might have been scratched off the list for similar offences.

110. If you take each case upon its own merits, it is also desirable that there should be no pretext for supposing that restorations arise from favouritism rather than from a fair consideration of all the circumstances; therefore the Committee wish to know whether you can mention any other case, the circumstances of which were analogous to those of Lieutenant Engledue?—I do not think that during the time I was at the Admiralty there were any papers circulated upon a similar case, therefore I was not called upon to give an opinion. As I stated before, in this particular case I saw the whole of the documents and papers relating to it, and upon them I wrote my opinion, which I think will prove the reasons why each individual Lord consents to the restoration, or as the case may be in other matters relating to different officers; and it is upon that ground on the moment that I might think that what Admiral Berkeley has stated, as to the plan being discontinued, is not altogether beneficial.

111. The papers will show your opinion, as well as the opinion of every other Lord at the time?—Yes; but I would venture to question the propriety of the Committee sending for those papers; not that I am at all afraid of having my opinions published to the world, and particularly in that matter, but they are entirely of a private and confidential nature, and circulated through the Admiralty upon the understanding merely, as Admiral Berkeley has stated, that each individual Lord may give his opinion upon each individual case, for the First Lord afterwards to form his own judgment as to those opinions; but undoubtedly those circulation papers will show the opinions of the various Lords; it is for the Committee to decide whether they think it right to send for those papers.

112. Among the reasons that you considered, you considered the memorial addressed to the Lords of the Admiralty of the 30th of November 1852, from Lieutenant Engledue, at page 11 of this paper?—Yes; I considered the memorial, with all the other papers connected with his case.

113. He there gives three or four reasons why he thinks he has some hope at least of being restored, and one is that he can superintend the equipment of contract vessels; do you consider that he would be of use in his position at Southampton in the superintendence of the equipment of contract vessels?—I cannot conceive any officer at any port being more so, because they are the largest fleet of our contract vessels from Southampton, than from any other port; there were other applications of a similar nature from other ports, from officers who might be resident there, upon that particular head, upon which there was very great anxiety manifested both by the Admiralty, the Government, and the country, and I conceive that no person could be more properly situated, or could be more instrumental in doing that, than Lieutenant Engledue.

114. But as he was an officer employed by the company, and therefore a servant of the company, could he, without giving up that position, superintend the equipment of contract vessels in any way that would be useful to the Admiralty?—Decidedly; for it was those very contract vessels that it was then contem-

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plated should be put into an efficient state for armament at a moment's notice, and I thought that he would be a very proper man above all others; I apply that only to the vessels at Southampton under his own eye and management.

115. He says that he could be of use in keeping a register of men qualified to manage guns?—I think most decidedly he would have been so, if it had been so ordered, and so carried out; the crews of those vessels under his management would have been instructed in the gun exercise, and, as I think, could not have been more efficiently instructed than by Lieutenant Engledue himself; he of course would have noted those men who were more ready in the use and management of great guns, and have kept a register of some to draft into or to recommend for Her Majesty's service.

116. Was any servant of any company, at any port, asked to keep a register of men in that way?—Yes; there was a master from Shields, I think a shipping-master he is called, and he made a similar application; his name is Hemsley.

117. Was he employed to do that?—No; so far as I know, no employment was given to any of those officers upon that point.

118. Other men applied in the same way, but you are not aware that any one was ever authorised to keep a register?—I think not in any one instance.

119. But you were favourable, were you not, to encouraging them to do so?—No, I think I have never said that; my own private opinion was against the possibility of arming those contract vessels to be of efficient service to the country; but of course any directions that the Board might have issued, or that the House might command, it would have been my duty to carry out.

120. You regard the equipment of contract vessels to be rather a hopeless task?—I did entertain that opinion, but it was not entertained by very superior judgments to mine.

121. Lieutenant Engledue speaks of the use he could be in entering men for Her Majesty's service; do you consider that in his position as a servant of a company he could be of use in the entering of men for Her Majesty's service?—That I admit had no weight whatever with me; of course his first duty would be to efficiently man the vessels under his command; he would take a pick for them; but that had no weight with me at all.

122. The Committee may generally understand that your favourable consideration of his case rested rather upon the long time which had elapsed since his deprivation, and you considered that that time had been sufficient punishment for what you admit to be a very serious offence?—Exactly so; that as an officer he had undergone sufficient punishment for the serious offence which he had committed, and I also thought that at his time of life, with his zeal and energy, and activity, he might still be of service to the country; I might possibly have come to another decision in the case of an old worn-out gouty man, who could not be of any use; but in this case, seeing the extreme activity and energy, and zeal with which he carried on his duties at Southampton, I thought that he was worthy of restoration to the service.

123. Then the letter restoring him, or rather the letter acquainting him that he was at liberty to memorialise Her Majesty for restoration, was written, as it appears, after the Board, of which you were a member, had practically resigned their position?—So it appears by these dates, but I do not think anything can be gathered from that, because the decision had been come to previously, and this was merely the routine of carrying out the decision of the Board, though it appears that the actual restoration did not take place until the 4th of January; still that only is the routine, the official manner of carrying out the previous directions of the Board.

124. You think that the decision was come to while the Admiralty were a Board, and before they had nominally resigned their places; they did not actually resign till the 5th of January?—I should say, as far as I recollect, even before the adverse vote of the House of Commons, which terminated their career.

125. The minutes of the Board would show that?—Yes. I cannot be accurate as to those dates; I have had no opportunity of looking at the dates since.

126. Lord *Hotham.*] You mean, I suppose, the decision as it appears on these circulation papers?—Yes.

127. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] This letter of the 22d of December was written by Captain Hamilton, in consequence of an order of the Board, of which order there would be a minute?—Exactly.

128. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated, did you not, that the testimonials which were presented

presented for your consideration had great weight with you also in restoring Lieutenant Engledue?—Yes; I happened to have served under Sir Thomas Hastings myself, who gives one of those testimonials, and he is an officer of whom I have the very highest opinion.

129. But those testimonials were brought under the consideration of the Board in June, previously to the letter from Mr. Stafford, which rejected the application of Lieutenant Engledue?—No; they would not be. Upon that decision being taken in June, the papers were not put into circulation; therefore the memorial just then received would be read or mentioned, as the case might be, and an immediate decision come to.

130. It appears by the memorial which was presented by Lieutenant Engledue, dated Southampton, the 9th of June 1852 (at pages 7 and 8), that there were certain enclosures, one from Sir James Graham and one from Sir Thomas Hastings, to which you now allude, and another from Sir Thomas Hastings; another from Sir Richard Grant, and another from Sir Watkin Owen Pell, and those were enclosures contained in the memorial; if that memorial was laid before the Board, were not the enclosures also brought under the consideration of the Board?—Of course, if they accompanied the memorial they would also be laid before the Board, but not be read or have special attention drawn to them. I think when that memorial came before the Board in June, it was mentioned as any of the other memorials from Lieutenant Engledue, upon which former decisions had been come to by previous Boards; and the letter, which the Committee see, of the 16th of June, was ordered to be sent without any consideration of his case.

131. But Lieutenant Engledue, in his letter of the 9th of June, in which he encloses those certificates, says, "From his services in the Navy, his zeal and high character when in it, as the accompanying testimonials show." Are the Committee to understand that this letter was read at the Board, and that the accompanying testimonials to which I have referred were not taken any notice of?—I have already stated that I could not say whether I was present at the Board. I was endeavouring to show what the practice was; it does not follow that the memorial would be read at length to the Board. Mr. Briggs, as the confidential clerk of the Board, might merely say, Here is another memorial from Lieutenant Engledue, and refer the new Board more especially to the decision upon the previous occasion, and he would be desired to send an answer, and he would send the answer.

132. You individually were not aware of the existence of those enclosures until after the 16th of June 1852, when Mr. Stafford refused to reinstate him?—Exactly. I think those memorials were not brought under my immediate observation until I was called upon in December to come to a decision upon his case.

133. When called upon to come to a decision upon his case, were any other testimonials presented to you beyond those to which I have referred?—I think no other testimonials; there would be of course the whole of the correspondence and decisions of all former Boards during the 12 years he had been off the list.

134. When you gave your reasons for reinstating him, did you do so with the belief that he would be ready to act as a Lieutenant, if called upon by the Admiralty so to do?—Decidedly.

135. To go out in a ship, if called upon by the Admiralty so to do?—Decidedly.

136. Was there any difference of opinion amongst the Lords of the Admiralty as to reinstating him?—Yes, there was.

137. What difference of opinion was there as to numbers?—My idea is, that two Lords out of the six dissented from the restoration.

138. Are the Lords who dissented, the Lords who now form a part of the Board of Admiralty?—They are; one of them had frequently to decide upon the case previously, and he was merely adhering to his decisions upon former occasions in this particular case.

139. In fact it was decided upon by a majority of three to two?—I think four to two; I think we were all present.

140. Lord *Hotham*.] During the visits you paid to Southampton, did you hear anything as to Lieutenant Engledue having interfered in politics?—Not a word.

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141. Nothing was said to you on either occasion to that effect?—Not in the slightest degree.

142. Were you at all aware, between the period of your visits to Southampton, and the period of his restoration, whether he had taken any and what part in political matters?—None whatever.

143. Then I suppose it is needless to ask you whether political considerations had any influence with you in the vote you gave upon the subject of his restoration?—Not in the slightest degree. Most people possess some political principles, but I was not aware that Lieutenant Engledue had exercised any political feelings, or what those feeling were, or that he had even voted till it was mentioned in the House of Commons that he had done so, upon the little discussion that took place upon the question of Sir G. R. B. Pechell referring those papers to this Committee. It then was stated that he had voted at the general election, and how he had voted; very confidently it was so stated, but I am informed that he did not so vote, that he has never voted, and for a very good reason, that he had no vote.

144. Whether he had or not, you had no knowledge of his political opinions, and you were not influenced by political considerations in the vote which you gave upon the subject of his restoration?—Not in the least; neither do I know anything at the present moment beyond what was stated in the House of Commons.

145. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You stated, did you not, that it was not contrary to the service to restore officers who had been dismissed, and you enumerated several?—Yes.

146. You stated also, did you not, that you took this case of Lieutenant Engledue upon its own special merits, without reference to any other?—Yes.

147. Can you state the case of any other officer being restored after having refused to join a ship and serve?—No, I cannot at this moment. May I be allowed to add, as it was under the notice of the Committee just now, from what Admiral Berkeley said with respect to the Secretary going down to Southampton, and being sent down by the late Board, I believe that has not come out at all upon any evidence; I am not aware of such a fact.

148. *Chairman.*] Are you aware whether any directions were given at any Board respecting the visits of the Secretary to Southampton?—None, when I was present.

149. It was not even mentioned, so that the Board might tacitly sanction, though they did not direct it?—No; nor am I now aware that he did go. He did not accompany me on my two official visits.

150. Did you go alone?—Yes; because it was the examination of those packets which were more immediately under my department of the Admiralty.

151. Perhaps you will state what the establishment is that the Admiralty have as to the packets?—There is a captain superintendent, a post captain, borne upon the "Victory's" books at Portsmouth, and a clerk, and I think an old warrant officer in charge of the office, and a messenger.

152. What are the duties of the captain superintendent?—To see that the various contracts entered into with the Board of Admiralty are strictly adhered to and carried out, and to go on board and muster the crews of each of the vessels under those contracts, and to see that they are fully equipped and manned, and fit for the service upon which they are engaged.

153. Could that captain superintendent exercise any of those duties which Lieutenant Engledue states he is so willing to undertake?—Most decidedly, more especially as to entering men for the service; and he could of course equally carry out the other points alluded to. But at the same time I conceive that Lieutenant Engledue would be able to render very valuable assistance, and though it does not appear that the duties of the captain-superintendent are very urgent there, yet, upon one of the only two occasions I went down there, he was too much occupied to be able to accompany me on the trial of the vessel.

154. The captain-superintendent could be of use in entering men for Her Majesty's service?—Yes.

155. And also for superintending the equipment of contract vessels; is not that a part of his business?—As at present arranged, the vessels are not armed; they are not equipped.

156. But if they were to be armed, it would be then his business to superintend, would it not?—Certainly; and upon their completion to see that, according

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ing to the contract, the terms entered into upon that head had been fully carried out.

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157. If any decision were come to as to the expediency of equipping those vessels, he would be the person to see it properly executed?—He certainly would be the proper supervising officer to see that the orders were properly executed. There is a little natural jealousy existing between those powerful companies in the packet service at Southampton and the superintending officer on behalf of the Admiralty, therefore I conceive that the real equipment of those vessels would be more efficiently done in the first instance by some junior officer, and then that he should have the final approbation of the work being properly executed; and it is not desirable (which previous captain-superintendents have told me) that they should come too much into contact with those companies over which they are superintending.

158. Is the captain superintendent on full pay?—Yes; Captain Austin, who is a very zealous and active officer, is on full pay, and borne on the "Victory's" books.

159. Sir *B. Hall.*] It appears that one of the reasons which Lieutenant Engledue puts forth why he should be reinstated is, that he is "to watch or superintend the equipment of contract vessels suited to carry guns;" but nothing of that kind is in existence at present, is it?—No; but it was in agitation both with respect to those out of Liverpool and Southampton, and, I think, Glasgow, last summer. A committee was appointed, but for some reason it was not prosecuted beyond their going down to Glasgow and Liverpool; but there was a committee appointed in a great measure with that view.

160. Lord *Hotham.*] A Committee of the House of Commons?—Yes.

161. *Chairman.*] You referred to a committee of the Board of Admiralty?—Yes.

162. When was that committee appointed?—I think in August or September.

163. Did they make any report upon that subject?—No.

164. Their inquiries led, did they not, to an unfavourable view of this subject of equipping contract vessels?—I cannot say that it was owing to their inquiries. I do not think they gave any opinion.

165. When you say that your own opinion was unfavourable to it, that was formed upon totally separate grounds?—Entirely.

166. Who were the committee?—Captain Warden, the Assistant Surveyor, was at the head of it. I do not remember the others.

167. Lord *Hotham.*] That committee was appointed, was it not, in consequence of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons?—Yes; and this very subject has been discussed in the House.

Rear-Admiral Sir *Thomas Herbert*, K.C.B., M.P., called in; and Examined.

168. YOU have heard the evidence of Captain Duncombe, have you not?—I have.

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169. And the other evidence that has been given this morning?—Yes.

170. Can you recollect sufficiently the circumstances of the case to state whether you were present in June 1852, at the Board of Admiralty, when the restoration of Lieutenant Engledue was considered, and when it was refused?—I have a very slight recollection of it. So far as I can remember, the case was not brought before the Board until early in December, of a memorial from Mr. Engledue to be restored to the navy. His case had been brought before the former Board on several occasions.

171. At that time no papers respecting this case were circulated to the different Lords?—None whatever, to my remembrance. I never saw any until December.

172. Were you present, in December 1852, when the memorial of Lieutenant Engledue, dated the 30th of November, was taken into consideration?—I recollect his memorial being brought before the Board in December, and it was then referred to be circulated; that is to say, with all the papers attached to it, to be sent round for the opinion of the Board, and that was all that was done on that occasion.

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173. Can you explain why, in June, the matter was set aside with so slight a consideration, and why, having been so set aside in June 1852, with such slight consideration, early in December 1852 the papers were desired to be circulated?—I cannot give any opinion upon that; I really do not know why it was. I presume the opinion was this: it is a case that has come so often, let us inquire into it, and see the papers. There were several persons, and, amongst others, Sir Watkin Pell; and others spoke to me, who had a very high opinion of Mr. Engledue; and Sir Thomas Hastings, I think, and Sir Watkin Pell spoke to me about him. I do not know Mr. Engledue; I never saw him; and at the Board I believe it was said, "Let us see all the documents; let us have an opinion upon it; and let us see what his case is."

174. As there was a new Board in June 1852, would not that have been the natural time to say, "Let us see the documents, and consider the decisions of former Boards"?—So far as that is concerned there might have been some important things coming on at the moment; and it was said, "Here is a memorial from Lieutenant Engledue, and it has been decided by the Board before;" without going into the case.

175. Then the Board decided that in June, without going into the case?—Yes, so far as I recollect it.

176. Then did it not put the Board in rather an inconvenient position in December, when they wished to consider the case, to find that they had already once decided it?—No; there might have been new matter.

177. As the papers were distributed in December 1852, did those papers contain any new matter?—I presume they did.

178. Can you tell the Committee what the new matter was?—As far as I know of the matter, I happen to have a paper that was thrown into a drawer, a sort of draft of what I had to say, having looked over all the papers, and I see that my notes were dated on the 16th of December; I do not know what the others were; but this happens to be the draft relating to Lieutenant Engledue's case: "Lieutenant Engledue was a very valuable officer when he declined to serve in 1841, and though it was quite right then to strike him off the list for so declining, since that time it appears his services have been most beneficial to the country, and looking at the cases enclosed"—there were a number of cases—"of officers who have been struck off the list, and since restored, I think we might restore Mr. Engledue, who would be very useful at Southampton."

179. What services of his since 1840 have been very beneficial to the country?—Upon my word I cannot carry in my mind what they were, but the cases were put round; the papers were put round, and these certificates of good character; he said he had been employed so much upon the civil branch, and had been very useful in the civil branch of the service.

180. That he had been employed in the civil branch under the Admiralty?—No, not by the Admiralty.

181. In what way had his services to the country been useful; do you mean his services to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Packet Company?—I presume so; but really without I had those papers I cannot say; my opinion was grounded then on the documents before me.

182. It was not his public services, but his services as a servant of the company?—Yes.

183. You said that with those documents other cases were circulated?—Yes.

184. As a guide to the Lords to form their opinion upon?—Yes.

185. So that you might not hastily establish a precedent?—Yes; so far as Lieutenant Engledue was concerned, we knew that there had been several officers who had been struck off the list for going into foreign service against the Order in Council, and they had afterwards been reinstated. This officer did not go into foreign service; he went into the mercantile service, and declined serving, and was struck off the list, and he was 12 years off the list.

186. Could you remember, as you read those papers, any case that struck you as at all analogous to that of Lieutenant Engledue?—No; nothing beyond a number of officers who had been struck off for having left the service and gone into other employment; he went into other employment, namely, the mercantile marine of this country; other officers who had left the service, and had gone into

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into the employ of foreign nations against the Order in Council, had been in consequence struck off the list, and then afterwards were reinstated.

187. But Lieutenant Engledue's case was so far a remarkable case, that it appears in his letter of August 1840, which was laid before you, that he wanted to make a bargain with the Admiralty?—He wrote a very impertinent and a very improper letter, and I say, that I think he deserved to be struck off the list; he was kept off 12 years.

188. You would equally, in August 1840, have concurred, if you had then been a Lord of the Admiralty, in striking him off the list?—Most decidedly.

189. But you considered the 12 years that had elapsed since he was struck off the list was a sufficient punishment?—Yes, if you are ever to forgive.

190. Was there any letter among those documents from Lieutenant Engledue showing his willingness to serve?—Nothing beyond what the Committee will see in the Parliamentary Papers; they are all published there, but of course the Committee have not got the cases, because those are in the records of the Admiralty; I refer to the number of cases that went round at the time to guide their Lordships' opinion upon this case.

191. But before the Committee could form an opinion as to the propriety of the decision to which the Board of Admiralty came, it would be necessary that the Committee should see those other cases, upon which such an opinion was founded?—Yes, it was that by which I was guided.

192. You signed the recommendation, and requested the compliance of the Crown?—I approved, with the other members of the Board, of his applying for restoration.

193. You signed it on the 3d of January, in which you begged leave to recommend to Her Majesty a compliance with the prayer of the memorialist?—Yes.

194. That is necessarily signed by two Lords?—Yes; the thing was commenced, and it was a finishing of it by the Board of Admiralty. The late Board of Admiralty did not commence any new matter after their resignation; this was perfecting a thing that had been begun before the Ministers had resigned. I see in the papers that the last time the Duke of Northumberland went down to take his orders from the Queen, was on the 28th of December. He went immediately, on the following day, and gave up the papers to Sir James Graham.

195. Your decision individually, as I understand, with respect to Lieutenant Engledue's case, was come to on the 16th of December?—Yes.

196. Sir *B. Hall.*] You state that the fact of his having been struck off the list for 12 years weighed very materially with you, in the decision to which you came?—Naturally, and other matters. I said, "If we are ever to forgive, here is a man who has been 12 years out of the service; and if we are ever to open the bowels of compassion, this is a case."

197. That was on the 16th of December 1852?—Yes.

198. Why did not that weigh with you on the 24th of June?—The case did not come before me; it might probably have been said, "Here is Lieutenant Engledue; he has made an application to be restored, and it has been refused by the late Board;" and a reply was made without looking at the documents, saying that the decision of the former Board will be adhered to.

199. At whose particular instance was it that the memorial and the certificates of good character were sent round again in December?—The matter came before the Board in December, and it was said, "Let us see into it;" and accordingly the papers were sent round and circulated.

200. By whom was it brought before the Board then?—He sent up all those documents himself, and they were sent to the Secretary in the usual way, and brought before the Board by the Reader of the Board.

201. It does not appear that any certificates were sent on the 30th of November 1852; it was merely another memorial, without anything accompanying it?—All the papers were sent round, and these certificates; and, as I mentioned just now, Sir Thomas Hastings spoke to me about him, and Sir Watkin Pell spoke to me; and I think I might have said at this Board, "Let us see those papers; let us look into his case."

202. In consequence of communications made to you, the memorial of the 30th of November was considered more seriously at the Board than it was before?—My impression is, that I might have said so; I really do not remember it.

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203. You are not aware of any additional certificates being sent up with the memorial of the 30th of November 1852?—No; nor did I know of those sent in June.

204. Lord *Hotham.*] Do the minutes of the Board of Admiralty contain any record of the way in which the different members of the Board vote, in cases where a difference of opinion exists?—No, not at the Board; but there is in the circulating papers.

205. Before the establishment of the system of circulating the papers, there are no means of ascertaining how the different members of the Board may have voted upon any question submitted to them?—No, I should think not.

206. Except by personal examination of the members themselves?—No.

207. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You stated, did you not, that it did not appear to you that in December 1852 there were any stronger grounds for reinstating Lieutenant Engledue than in June?—There might not be. I do not know; I had not seen the documents until all his case was sent round in December.

208. Lord *Hotham.*] Is it not the case, that on the appointment of a new Board of Admiralty, it receives applications for the reconsideration of various adverse decisions, which have been given by their predecessors against different officers?—Yes; at least a great number came before the Board.

209. *Chairman.*] If, on these occasions, they see grounds for reconsidering the decision of a former Board, I suppose they do so?—They would not do so unless there were some new matter, or some very strong case indeed upon its merits. The new Board would not wish to rescind the order of another, unless there were some very good reason; some reason that probably had not struck the Board before; length of time, for instance.

210. But the length of time was only increased by a few months, between June and December, and therefore the reason, so far as the Committee can ascertain, was as good for reconsideration in June as in December 1852?—It might have been; but the members of the Board had not the same opportunity, for they had not the same cases to look at. If the same documents had been sent round in June instead of December, of course they would have come most likely to the same decision in June.

211. Then it appears that the consideration depended upon the circulation of the papers?—Upon a thorough knowledge of the case, and the circulation of the papers.

212. Can you tell the Committee who decided whether or not the papers should be circulated in June?—They were not circulated in June, it was not done until December.

213. In June the Board did not think it worth while to circulate the papers?—So it appears, and in December they did.

214. Lord *Hotham.*] When did Sir Watkin Pell speak to you about it?—I I really cannot say.

215. Was it after the first rejection?—I rather think it was, but I cannot say.

216. With regard to Sir Thomas Hastings, when did he speak to you?—That was after too, I think. If they had done it before, and if Lieutenant Engledue's case had come up, it might have been done without my taking the least notice of it.

217. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated, did you not, that those certificates of character which came from Sir James Graham, Sir Thomas Hastings, and Sir Watkin Pell, weighed with you with regard to the reinstatement of Lieutenant Engledue?—They went with the other cases.

218. But are you not aware that those certificates of Sir James Graham, Sir Thomas Hastings, and Sir Watkin Pell were merely transcripts of the same memorials which were presented to the Board which preceded you?—Perfectly so; therefore I only say that they did not only weigh with me; it was not entirely them that did it.

219. But, notwithstanding those certificates from those various distinguished officers that were presented in December 1851, the late Board of Admiralty positively refused to accede to the request of Lieutenant Engledue, although he sent those very same memorials?—So it appears.

220. Mr. *Beckett.*] Did you find Lieutenant Engledue's case pressed more upon your attention in November by other parties than before?—Never. I heard what Captain Duncombe said just now; I never knew that he had any political

political creed, or that he had ever voted at Southampton; it had no weight with me; I never heard of it, or paid any attention to it at all, as to his being a friend of one party or the other politically.

221. Lord *Hotham.*] Your opinion could not have been influenced by that?—No, in no way whatever; I did not know it.

222. *Chairman.*] You stated, did you not, that his memorial had very little weight with you, because those general matters in which he says he could be instrumental in serving the Government, were questions that you did not much consider?—I considered it very much in addition to the length of time he had been out of the Navy, and being a very active officer. It was at the period when we were looking out for the armament of those packets; and there were guns at that time ordered to be prepared for those packets at Southampton.

223. Was that as late as December?—It was after June that they were sent down, and an officer was sent down there to examine those vessels, and guns were ordered for them; and this officer, who has the superintendence of the packets, Mr. Engledue, was thought to be a man who, from his great experience in gunnery, would be able to teach those people better than anybody else, for he would have the command, he would have the drilling of them. As far as Captain Austin was concerned he would have to inspect them, but as to going through the detail of the exercise, the man who would do that would be such an experienced man as Lieutenant Engledue, and it was thought that he would be a most valuable person to have down there.

224. In December 1852 was the question of arming those vessels still under the consideration of the Board?—It was still under consideration as to how, if necessity required, they might be armed.

225. A committee had been appointed to inquire into that in the summer?—Yes; a committee went down to the different ports, as far as Glasgow and Liverpool, to see the effect of the screw propeller in the mercantile service, and how far we could improve it upon such service, so far as the armament went; another officer went down by himself there to report upon it, Captain Jerningham; he was sent down to report upon it.

226. When was he sent down?—I do not know exactly the month, but some time in June or July.

227. Had you any report from him?—He was sent down; there was no report to me; it was a demi-official report; it came to the First Lord, and was not a public one.

228. Did you consider in December 1852 that something was about to be done as to the equipment of contract vessels?—Certainly, I thought so; and that guns would be prepared, ready to be put on board of them, if some were reported fit to carry guns; but as to the majority of them, it was said that their scantling was so weak that they could not carry heavy guns; but if the necessity arose it was thought that it would be invaluable to have a man like Lieutenant Engledue there.

229. You were favourable to the equipment of contract vessels?—To those that were fit for it.

230. Did you consider that any were fit for it?—From the report, I think there were very few; but there were some.

231. With regard to entering men for Her Majesty's service, did it seem to you that Lieutenant Engledue could be of any use for that purpose?—I did not attach anything to that; if he saw a good man, naturally he would go and man his own vessels first; and if he saw any men over and above, he would say, "Go to a man-of-war," and let the man go.

232. Were you aware of any official visit of the Secretary of the Admiralty to Southampton?—No; I never knew that he went there.

233. You did not in any way, of course, sanction it?—It never came before me.

234. Lord *Hotham.*] You have stated that you had no knowledge of Lieutenant Engledue's politics, and therefore you were not in the slightest degree influenced by political considerations in recommending his reinstatement?—Yes.

235. I presume you will have no difficulty in answering with equal confidence, that neither Sir Thomas Hastings nor Sir Watkin Pell could have been influenced by political considerations in calling your attention to the case of

Rear-Admiral Sir *T. Herbert*, K.C.B., M.P.

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Lieutenant Engledue?—I certainly think not; most certainly not; I should trust that no officer would so recommend.

236. Did any cases of either the dismissal of midshipmen, or the reinstatement of dismissed midshipmen, come before the Board of which you were a member?—Yes; I think there were some.

237. Are you aware whether your Board reinstated any who had been dismissed by the preceding Board?—I do not recollect.

238. Are you aware of any having been dismissed by that Board?—Yes; I think there has been; I do not recollect the names.

239. Are you aware whether any were dismissed by your Board who have been since reinstated?—I am not aware of that; I have not heard of it.

240. Sir *B. Hall.*] Will you just turn to the first page of the paper before you; it appears that by Lieutenant Engledue's letter, dated the 19th of August 1840, in reply to a letter from the Lords of the Admiralty, signed by Mr. More O'Ferrall, desiring him to hold himself in readiness to join any ship to which he might be appointed, he says, "Presuming that it is their Lordships' intention to promote me to the rank of Commander, and appoint me to the command of one of Her Majesty's steam ships, for which service I have been qualifying myself, I beg leave to say that I am ready at five minutes' notice"; and he says that he is disinclined to serve if he is continued as lieutenant. If you will turn to page 13, you will see that there is a letter, signed by Mr. Osborne, in which Mr. Osborne states, "I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that you have been replaced accordingly in your former position, and to direct that you will hold yourself in readiness for an appointment; your half-pay will commence on 4th instant"; to which Lieutenant Engledue replies, "I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, notifying my re-appointment to my former rank in the Royal Navy, by Her Majesty's Order in Council of the 4th instant"; but it does not say one word as to his intention to serve if he receives an appointment to any ship as Lieutenant?—No; I do not think that is necessary to be put in.

241. You consider that he is ready and willing to serve if he receives any appointment?—I presume so as a matter of course.

242. Captain Milne and Admiral Hyde Parker were the two Lords who dissented from the reinstatement of Lieutenant Engledue?—Yes, I think they were; Captain Milne was one of the former Board, therefore I presume he knew what the decision of the former Board was; but Admiral Hornby was decidedly of my own opinion; I recollect we went over the papers together.

243. *Chairman.*] You state that Admiral Hornby was of the same opinion; do you mean the same opinion as yourself?—He came into my room, and we looked over the papers together, and he was of the same opinion as I was.

John Holman Hay, Esq., called in; and Examined.

J. H. Hay, Esq.

244. Sir *B. Hall.*] ARE you aware of any visit being made by the late Secretary of the Admiralty to Southampton?—Yes; I am aware so far as this; in consequence of what passed at the last Committee, when I was asked to give a statement of the expenses incurred by the Secretary upon the different visitations, one was to Southampton, which I have now.

245. *Chairman.*] Was it given in with the others?—Yes, it was.

246. Sir *B. Hall.*] Have you got that account with you?—Yes, I have. The entry in my book of the contingent account is on the 30th of June: "Paid Mr. Stafford's travelling expenses on public service to Chatham and Southampton;" and that is the document upon which I paid it. (*The same was handed in.*)

247. It appears by this document which you have handed in to the Committee, that it is an account of Mr. Stafford's expenses to Southampton on the 3d of June, amounting to 10 *l.* 4 *s.*?—Yes.

248. Are there no items of expenditure handed in to you?—No; the fact is, items of expenditure are not generally given to me, unless a messenger attends the Board or the Secretary; no messenger attended, and, of course, from the Secretary, I should not ask for the items, and they are never given.

249. Are you aware, as one of the acting secretaries of the Admiralty, whether there are any instructions in writing that have come before you as to the visit of Mr. Stafford to Southampton?—Not any whatsoever.

250. Is

250. Is this the nature of the account which is handed in to you frequently by the secretaries of the Admiralty?—I cannot say frequently, for the secretaries do not generally, as I stated in my last evidence, make journeys; there may have been instances; for instance, Mr. Ward, upon one or two occasions; but he was specially appointed to investigate certain accounts at the Dockyards.

251. *Chairman.*] He was on a commission?—Yes, he was. He went down two or three times; he went by himself, by the order of the Board. I do not believe that there were any written instructions to him; it was merely a verbal order.

252. Sir *B. Hall.*] Have you no knowledge whatever of the object of this visit of Mr. Stafford?—Not the slightest.

253. And this sum is charged upon the contingencies?—Yes.

254. *Chairman.*] This visit might have been by a verbal order of the Board, as the visit of Mr. Ward's was?—Yes, certainly.

255. There would be no record if it had been a verbal order?—No; excepting from Mr. Stafford himself.

256. Or some of the Lords of the Admiralty?—Yes, one of the members of the Board.

John Jesse, Esq., called in; and Examined.

257. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation do you hold at the Admiralty?—I am the head of the appointment branch.

258. As head of the appointment branch, are you cognizant of the cases in which persons are struck off the list for not serving?—Yes, that would be in my department.

259. You can tell the Committee whether it is of frequent occurrence that officers of the Navy get involved in private trade, or in other business, and are unwilling to serve when called upon?—I know of cases of the kind.

260. Whenever they are called upon to serve, when they decline, is it the invariable rule that they are struck off the list?—Certainly.

261. When so struck off the list, having declined to serve, do you know any case in which they have been again restored?—Yes; I can mention two in the last 10 or 12 years.

262. Where they have actually declined to serve, and have been restored?—Yes; one was the case of a lieutenant, who positively refused to serve on the coast of Africa, but he was ready to serve on any other station.

263. Who was that?—Lieutenant Buchanan.

264. What was the date of that?—January 1846.

265. He was restored, you say?—Yes, he was restored first of all as acting mate, on probation.

266. When was he restored as naval officer; not to his original rank?—In April 1847.

267. He was restored to an inferior rank, on probation?—Yes.

268. Since then, has he been restored to his former rank?—Yes.

269. When was that?—In August 1848.

270. Having served for a year?—Sixteen months. His conduct was very highly reported upon.

271. Will you mention any other case?—There was a master, who was told to hold himself in readiness to serve, and he took the command of a ship.

272. Without permission?—The owners of the ship applied to the Admiralty for leave, which was refused to them; he never applied himself.

273. When was that?—In March 1841.

274. He was struck off the list in March 1841?—Yes.

275. When was he restored?—He was restored in April 1842.

276. His offence was taking the command of a ship in the private service without having applied for permission?—Yes; and after having been told that his services were required.

277. And he was restored in April 1842?—Yes.

278. Do you know anything of the circumstances that led to his restoration?—He was an excellent officer, and he bore the highest character as a young and active officer.

J. Jesse, Esq.

1 July 1853.

279. Are those the only two cases that you are aware of, in which restoration has taken place?—Yes, in my time. I do not take officers like Sir Charles Napier, and others, who enter upon a foreign service without permission.

280. You merely refer to those who have entered either into private trade, or had declined to serve, like Lieutenant Buchanan, in the dangerous and disagreeable service to which he was appointed?—Yes.

281. Have there been many cases of naval surgeons being struck off the list?—Yes, in about the same time, 10 or 12 years, there may have been about six or seven.

282. Have any of them been restored?—I do not find that any one has applied, except in one case, which was about a month after his name was removed, but the others I think have not applied.

283. Lord *Hotham.*] What reason did Lieutenant Buchanan assign for refusing to go to Africa?—I think the climate being likely to affect his health.

284. Did he send any medical certificate?—No, nothing of the sort, I think.

285. When employed as mate, where did he go?—To the Mediterranean, I think, in the "Howe."

286. *Chairman.*] You stated that Lieutenant Buchanan had served for a year as mate when he was restored?—Yes.

287. As to that master that was restored in 1841, did he serve after that?—No, he never was employed.

288. He never was called upon?—He was granted leave to reside abroad, which was renewed from time to time, and he was told at last that he must serve. I do not know whether or not he made applications that were not made public, but he was never employed, I think.

289. Do you know the case of Lieutenant Waghorn?—I do not think he was ever dismissed; he never was off the list. So far from that, he was specially promoted by the Board, at the recommendation of the India Board, for his great services in establishing steam communication with India. He was promoted by Lord Haddington, so far as I recollect.

290. He was never considered to have entered private service?—Yes, certainly, but he performed great national services; he was, I believe, the entire originator of steam communication with India.

291. But he entered private service?—Yes.

292. Do you know whether he entered that service without communicating to the Board of Admiralty before he so entered?—I cannot say; I think very likely not, as he was not going abroad.

293. Lord *Hotham.*] He had been a long time, had he not, memorialising for permission?—My impression is that he had applied before he was promoted; it was not till the India Board and Lord Fitzgerald had applied for him that that took place.

294. Had he been called upon to serve and declined?—Never, I think.

295. Sir *F. H. Davie.*] His case is not at all a similar one to Lieutenant Engledue's?—Not at all; I do not think that it bears upon this case in any way whatever.

296. Have you any idea during those 12 years about how many officers may have been struck off?—For general misconduct?

297. As bearing upon this case?—I should say about nine or ten, taking the medical officers too.

298. Sir *B. Hall.*] The case of distinguished officers acting upon foreign service is considered different, generally, from cases of the description to which you have referred?—My personal inclination would be to say yes; I can only answer it in that way.

299. Lord *Hotham.*] What was the name of the master who was struck off the list?—Mapleton.

300. Sir *B. Hall.*] You have stated two cases, that of Lieutenant Buchanan and a master in the service; do you know any case at all analogous to that of Lieutenant Engledue?—Not nearer than those two.

301. *Chairman.*] Do you remember many cases where restoration has been refused?—No; I do not think any of the surgeons, with the exception of one, applied; Mr. Dor, a master, was dismissed for declining to join the "Geyser;" I do not think that he has ever applied, as far as I can make out.

302. Lord *Hotham.*] Were there any particular circumstances leading to the restoration of Mr. Mapleton? — Nothing but his high character. There was a memorial from him, in which he said that his services were valuable to the country; he had been exploring in the antarctic regions, and his services were of national importance.

303. And his previous good character?—Very high character; he was a valuable officer.

304. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Are the Committee to understand you to say, that altogether there might be, including the surgeons, about 10 cases?—Yes, I think about that number, taking them altogether.

305. Out of those 10 not above three or four appear to have applied to be restored?—I think not. I think there have been only two who have been restored, and one medical officer applied. I do not speak positively.

306. In fact there have been scarcely any refusals?—No, as they have not applied.

307. Lord *Hotham.*] You only allude to applications for restoration upon grounds somewhat similar?—Entirely.

308. *Chairman.*] Was not there a case, some few years ago, of some surgeons being required to go out to the West Indies, who were struck off the list?—Yes, there were, I think.

309. When was that?—I think it must have been about four or five years ago.

310. For what purpose were they required to go?—I think there was a fever raging there.

311. They were called upon to go out there?—Yes.

312. Did they decline to go?—I do not recollect whether it was one or two cases; two, I think; I cannot speak positively.

313. They were struck off the list?—Yes.

Arthur Anderson, Esq., called in; and Examined.

314. *Chairman.*] YOU are connected with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, are you not? — I am one of the managing directors.

315. Lieutenant Engledue was in the service of the company, was he not?—Yes, he has been a great number of years.

316. Has he been for a long period at Southampton?—About four years, I think; between four and five years.

317. His duties there are the general superintendence of the affairs of the company there?—He has the general superintendence and keeping the vessels in proper order, and seeing that they are efficiently manned conformably to the terms of the contract with the Admiralty, and to carry out all orders that he receives from the committee of management in London, respecting the affairs of the company generally at Southampton.

318. The business therefore that he has to transact at Southampton is very considerable?—Yes, very important, and very considerable.

319. The company have some political influence therefore at Southampton, having this large business there, have they not?—I really am not aware, never having exercised any myself, that they have any further than their connexion with the town, and expending a large sum of money annually there; I presume out of that may grow some degree of influence.

320. Lord *Hotham.*] Employing a great number of men?—Yes, and dealing with a great number of tradesmen.

321. *Chairman.*] The Company have never taken any part in politics in Southampton?—On the contrary, there is a resolution of which I have a copy in my pocket, framed at the election in 1847, when my colleague, Mr. Willcox, was a candidate, strictly agreeing that the influence of the company should not be exercised in any political matters.

322. Mr. Willcox was a candidate in 1847?—Yes.

323. Was he connected with the company?—He is my colleague as a managing director of the company.

324. He stood for the first time in 1847, did he not?—Yes.

A. Anderson, Esq.

1 July 1853.

325. At that time a resolution was come to by the company, which you will have the kindness to read?—Yes, it arose in this way: the Board of Directors consisted of some 12 or 14 gentlemen, all differing very much in their political views and opinions, and it was thought where we were also representing about 1,000 people of all kinds of opinions that the influence of the company should not be used in any electioneering matter. This was a resolution which arose from the following circumstance. A letter was read from Admiral Ward, who was taking an active part then in the Conservative interest; he complained that there was some influence being used on the other side, on the Liberal side, and in consequence of this letter a meeting of the Board was called, Mr. Willcox being present, and in fact, he moved a resolution to this effect: "Read, a letter from Rear-Admiral Ward, dated Southampton, 24th instant, on the subject of the approaching election at Southampton; and it was resolved that the Board are of opinion, that neither directly nor indirectly should any influence this company may be supposed to possess in Southampton amongst the tradesmen, or with the officers of this establishment, be exercised in reference to the approaching election; and the Board pledges itself to discountenance such undue influence if any attempt be made which comes to its knowledge of the nature referred to in Rear-Admiral Ward's letter. Resolved also, that copy of this resolution be forwarded to Rear-Admiral Ward in reply to his letter."

326. Having come to that resolution on the part of the company, did the managing directors ever have anything brought to their knowledge as to the influence that they possessed at Southampton having been used politically?—The only time within my knowledge when any circumstance of that kind was brought to their knowledge, was by a passage in a Southampton newspaper, in which it was stated that Mr. Engledue and also Mr. Lamb, the superintendent engineer of the company there, were actively engaged, and had attended a public meeting on the occasion of Sir Alexander Cockburn vacating his seat by the acceptance of the office of Attorney-general, when it was proposed to bring forward Captain Sheppard of the India House as a candidate; it was not very clearly stated upon what principles, but we found by this passage, which was brought to my attention, that a meeting had been held at Southampton, at which Mr. Engledue had taken the chair.

327. When was this?—This was the 12th of April 1851, and on its being brought to my knowledge, I considered it well to give Mr. Engledue a little private advice; there was no official notice taken of it. I asked him to come up to town, and Mr. Lamb also, and I then stated to them, looking at the resolution, which I considered to be a standing one of the company, that the Board would, I was sure, disapprove of their taking such an active part in politics. Mr. Engledue did not make me any particular reply. I considered he rather almost assented to it; but Mr. Lamb, whose politics I may observe were quite opposite to Mr. Engledue's, for he goes under the term of a Radical, was somewhat indignant at the rules I laid down. He said it was very hard that their being in the employ of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company should prevent them from exercising their political rights, in fact that they should be made slaves of. I replied that that was misunderstanding the nature of my observation. We did not wish to make a slave of him or Mr. Engledue, but our object was to prevent them from making slaves of others; and that though they might not intend it, their position in the company's service at the town of Southampton was such, that they could not in canvassing divest themselves of the character of using the company's influence at that time, and people would naturally suppose that they were representing the views of the company; therefore I merely advised them as a friend to abstain, not from exercising their own votes as they might think proper, but to abstain from taking any active part in canvassing others.

328. That was in April 1851?—Yes.

329. Having given that good advice to Mr. Engledue, were any circumstances brought to your knowledge to show whether he had acted afterwards in accordance with that advice?—Not afterwards; upon that occasion, Captain Sheppard, I think, declined to be a candidate, and Sir Alexander Cockburn was elected without opposition.

330. On any subsequent occasion, have any proceedings been brought to your knowledge in which Lieutenant Engledue or any one else, on the part of the company at Southampton, had taken any part contrary to that resolution?—I have

have heard it rumoured; I never had any case brought to my notice from which I could say that he had done so. *A. Anderson*, Esq.

331. Mr. *Beckett.*] If Lieutenant Engledue had taken any active steps, it probably would have become known to you, or to persons in official connexion with you?—It might not have come to my knowledge; I really did not take much interest in it; besides, about the time of the last election, I was very much out of health, and I was obliged to give up a canvass of my own in consequence. 1 July 1853.

332. *Chairman.*] You took a considerable interest, did you not, in the equipment of the merchants' service for the purposes of defence?—I moved for, and obtained a Committee in the House of Commons in the Session of 1849, upon that subject.

333. Had you had any opinions from Lieutenant Engledue upon that subject?—Yes; he gave a very considerable amount of evidence to that Committee upon the capability of merchant steamers carrying armaments, and being made useful as an auxiliary navy in case of any great emergency.

334. He agreed with you in the possibility of equipping the merchant service for the purposes of defence?—His opinion generally concurred with mine.

335. You stated, did you not, that you found him always a very good and efficient servant of the company?—Very much so.

336. Did the company contribute any testimonial in his favour at the time when he applied to the Admiralty for his restoration?—Not to my knowledge; I rather think they did not; any application of that kind was perfectly unknown to me; I knew nothing about it.

337. You are not aware that he asked the managing directors to give him any testimonial?—No; he did not do that to my knowledge.

338. Did you, on the part of the company, have any communication with the Admiralty respecting the equipment of contract vessels for the purposes of defence in the course of the summer of 1852?—I had no official communication with the Admiralty; I brought the question again under consideration in the House of Commons in April 1852.

339. Had you no communication with the Admiralty afterwards on the part of the company?—None whatever. The question did not refer to this company, or any particular company.

340. Observing that Lieutenant Engledue, in his memorial to the Lords of the Admiralty, mentions his peculiar fitness for superintending the equipment of contract vessels, I thought perhaps the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company had been in communication with the Admiralty upon that subject?—No, they had not.

Vice-Admiral *Hyde Parker*, called in; and Examined.

341. *Chairman.*] THE Committee wish to know whether you recollect the case of Lieutenant Engledue, and whether you were aware of his dismissal in August 1840?—I was quite aware of his dismissal, because all the papers were circulated, and I read them all before I gave my opinion upon them. Vice-Admiral *Hyde Parker.*

342. Can you say when you first gave your opinion upon them as a Lord of the Admiralty?—I cannot recollect the time; there were so many papers circulated that it is impossible for me to recollect the date; but those papers respecting Lieutenant Engledue were circulated, and I gave my opinion upon the circulation papers.

343. The first time that you gave an opinion was in the course of the year 1852, was it not?—Yes.

344. You had not been previously a Lord of the Admiralty?—No.

345. Do you remember whether it was in June 1852, or in the course of that summer, that you gave any opinion upon that subject?—Yes, I think it was in the summer.

346. The Committee have before them a letter signed by Mr. Stafford, of the 16th of June 1852, which says, that having laid before the Lords of the Admiralty Lieutenant Engledue's letter, the Secretary is commanded by their Lordships to acquaint him that they must abide by their former decision. That letter is dated the 16th June 1852?—Yes; that is the time after the papers had been circulated, and opinions given upon the circulated papers.

347. An opinion had been given upon the circulation papers, as I understand you, in June 1852?—Yes.

Vice-Admiral *Hyde Parker.*

1 July 1853.

348. And upon that occasion the Lords of the Admiralty were unanimous in their refusal of the restoration?—I believe they were; I gave my opinion strongly against it.

349. Then about the middle of December the question seems again to have been considered by the Admiralty?—Yes; it was brought before the Board, I think.

350. Were the papers then again circulated?—I think not; I think they were not circulated twice.

351. In December 1852, was it not the practice to circulate the papers?—It was still the custom.

352. You think, as far as you can recollect, that those papers were not circulated again?—I will not be positive, but I do not think they were circulated a second time.

353. Then upon that occasion, so far as you remember, it was merely discussed at the Board?—It was brought before the Board specially.

354. Might I ask you who brought it specially before the Board; there is a memorial which, as a matter of course, is handed in by the Secretary?—Yes.

355. But when you say it was brought specially before the Board, you mean by some one Lord, do you not?—I believe that memorial was laid before the Board.

356. But it would only be read upon the motion of some one?—It would be read as a common paper, as a matter of course.

357. When you state it was specially brought before the Board, what do you mean more than that?—I mean that there was a Board, and that the opinion of the Board should be given upon that case; I presume that was the reason why it was brought before the Board.

358. Do you mean that a motion was made to that effect?—The question was, whether Lieutenant Engledue should be restored.

359. And upon that occasion, that being the question, what was your opinion upon that question?—Most decidedly against it; I said that I had given my opinion against it before, and I saw no reason to change it.

360. You had given your opinion in June, and you saw no reason to change it?—No; as he refused the service when called upon, I did not think that he ought to be restored to his rank.

361. You considered that the time which had elapsed was no reason for altering your decision?—I thought not.

362. Can you remember whether, when the papers were circulated in reference to this case, any precedents were circulated, or any cases that applied to restorations at all similar?—I do not think they were circulated with the case, so far as my memory serves me; there is such an immense quantity of papers circulated.

363. Are you acquainted with any case in which an officer having refused to serve has been restored?—No, I am not; a similar case has taken place this very day of an officer refusing to serve, and his name has been erased from the list.

364. You consider that, for the good of the service, to be a necessary severity?—I consider it absolutely necessary.

365. Do you think that restoring an officer when he has refused to serve constitutes a precedent that will bring more applications upon the Board?—I think so, in the situation Lieutenant Engledue was; he was in a private situation, which he evidently would not have given up to serve, and therefore I conceived it was of no kind of use restoring a person of that kind to the service.

366. You consider that when he was restored, he was not in any way ready to serve, though he was restored?—Certainly not.

367. I observe that his letter, in which he acknowledges the receipt of the letter containing his reappointment to his former rank, does not mention his readiness to serve, although the letter to him had directed him to hold himself in readiness for any appointment?—I have never seen his letter.

368. Sir *B. Hall.*] You stated, did you not, that in the month of June the circulation papers were issued, and after those papers had been issued and considered by the members of the Board, the Board unanimously decided against the reinstatement of Lieutenant Engledue?—I am not able to say whether it was unanimous or not; I believe it was refused.

369. After

369. After the consideration of those circulation papers?—Yes.

370. You remember the case of Lieutenant Engledue being brought before the Board in December 1852?—Perfectly.

371. Immediately previously to the consideration of that case were the circulation papers issued for the consideration of the members of the Board?—I can only recollect their being issued once.

372. Was that once in the summer or in the winter?—Upon my honour, I cannot remember what time it was; I know they were circulated once, and it was decided against his restoration.

373. You did not see anything at all in any paper laid before you to induce you to revoke the decision you had come to in the month of June previously?—Certainly not.

374. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Are the Committee to understand that, upon that occasion, whether it was in June or in December, on which you gave your opinion in writing upon those circulation papers, the application for restoration was refused?—It was when it came before the Board upon the second occasion; it came before the Board when his rank was given him.

375. But that was in December?—I believe it was.

376. The Committee have been given to understand that it was upon that occasion, and not in June, that the circulation papers were sent?—I am positive the circulation papers were issued long before the decision was brought before the Board respecting his restoration; that I am quite certain of.

377. A considerable time before December?—Certainly.

378. Mr. *Beckett.*] But there were no new circumstances stated in December that were unknown in June?—None.

379. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You are aware that Lieutenant Engledue's last memorial is dated at the end of November 1852?—Yes, I believe so.

380. Then are the Committee to understand that the period between that memorial in November and the 22d of December, when the letter was written, was the time at which the circulation papers were sent?—I really cannot say when, but it is very easy to send for them; the circulation papers will be in the office.

381. Lord *Hotham.*] The circulation papers are discontinued now, are they not?—No; they are so far continued that they are circulated; but you do not give any opinion upon the circulation papers now; the opinion was given upon the circulation papers formerly.

382. In what light are those circulation papers considered; are they considered as private and confidential documents?—Many of them are.

383. As between whom; between the Lords and the First Lord?—Yes; many of them are confidential; then in that case they are put under cover and sealed, from one Lord to another.

384. We have been told that the opinions of the members of the Board so given are considered as intended to be confidential communications between them and the First Lord?—That could not have been the case formerly, because it must have been known to all the clerks in the office, and it must have been known to everybody, as the opinions are written upon the papers.

385. Still a vast number of matters are known to the clerks in the office, which must be matters of a very confidential nature, which they do not divulge, I suppose?—Papers of a confidential nature ought not to go before them.

386. In what light are the decisions and deliberations of the Board considered; are they considered as confidential communications?—Very often they are; they are very often decided in the Board with nobody present but the Lords and the Secretary.

387. They ought not to be divulged?—Certainly not.

388. In like manner as decisions of the Cabinet are secret?—Yes; it is constantly the case.

389. *Chairman.*] Are the Committee to understand that you consider the circulation papers, with reference to Lieutenant Engledue, for instance, as not of that confidential class which you have spoken of?—No, I do not think they are; it must be perfectly well known to every clerk in the office.

390. The Lords, in writing their opinions upon those papers, do not, you think, consider that they are making a private communication merely for the

Vice-Admiral *Hyde Parker.*

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information of the First Lord?—No; mostly the circulation papers were placed upon the table by the First Lord, who has them last.

391. You stated that this was considered at the Board in December, when the case of Lieutenant Engledue came forward; there was a difference of opinion, was there not, at the Board?—There was.

392. The Committee have been informed that four Lords of the Admiralty were in favour of the restoration of Lieutenant Engledue, and two were opposed to it?—Yes, that is quite true.

393. And you were one of those who were opposed to the restoration?—I was; I was surprised to find it otherwise.

394. Where there was this difference of opinion, there was necessarily some discussion upon the subject?—There was not much discussion upon the subject, because there was a majority in favour of it.

395. Was it decided at that Board that a letter should be written, telling Lieutenant Engledue that he was at liberty to memorialise?—No; the decision of the Board was, that he was restored to his rank.

396. Lord *Hotham.*] It could only be done through memorialising the Queen in Council?—It was recommended to the Queen in Council from the Board by a majority.

397. The Board could not restore?—No, certainly not; they could only recommend it to the Queen in Council, and a majority did recommend it.

398. Were you aware that the Secretary of the Admiralty paid a visit to Southampton in June 1852?—I really do not recollect whether he did or not.

399. Are you aware whether or not he had been directed to go to Southampton by any of the Lords of the Admiralty?—No, I am not at all aware.

400. Could you give the Committee any information respecting the restoration of any officers who have taken foreign service?—I know it by report to be the case.

401. What cases do you remember?—The case of Sir Charles Napier and Admiral Sartorius.

402. It is the constant practice to strike off an officer from the list who takes foreign service?—Without having received permission.

403. In many cases where officers have been struck off the list for so taking foreign service, they have been restored, have they not?—Certainly, the practice in that case has been so, and several others besides of inferior rank.

404. Then are the Committee to understand that taking service under a foreign government without permission, is deemed less objectionable than taking service under a company at home without permission?—I really do not know; I cannot answer that question.

405. If you look at page 11, you will see the letter of the 22d of December 1852?—He had been refused on the 24th of June 1852. The circulation papers must have been certainly before that time.

406. He was refused on the 16th of June (at page 9), and he was refused on the 24th of June (at page 10), but your opinion is that at least before the last of those occasions the papers respecting the case had been circulated?—Certainly.

407. But a reference to the papers will at once show that?—Certainly.

John Jesse, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

John Jesse, Esq.

408. *Chairman.*] CAN you inform the Committee when those papers, relating to Lieutenant Engledue, were circulated among the Lords of the Admiralty?—I think they were circulated twice; once by the late Board, and once by the former Board; I think so. On the 16th of June, I think, the application was refused personally by one individual member of the Board; there is nothing, I think, to show that it ever went before the Board at all.

409. There were two applications in June, as it appears?—Yes.

410. You are not certain whether the papers were circulated on the occasion of one of those applications, or whether they were circulated in December of that year?—I think only in December; but I can get the papers.

Rear-Admiral the Honourable *M. F. F. Berkeley*, a Member of the House, further Examined.

Rear-Admiral Hon. *M. F. F. Berkeley*, M. P.

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411. *Chairman.*] YOU have heard questions asked in this Committee respecting the striking off the list of officers for taking foreign service, and Sir Charles Napier's name was introduced; will you state the circumstances of that case?—I was at the Board.

412. When was that?—It was when Sir James Graham was first in office, and the late Admiral Dundas was then a member of the Board, and a very great friend of Sir Charles Napier's, and he was desired, I suppose, by high authority, to communicate with Sir Charles Napier; it suited the views of the Government that the Portuguese fleet should be properly commanded, and he was engaged to go out; but, for the sake of appearance, his name was scratched off the list; and that was the case with Admiral Sartorius.

413. Lord *Hotham.*] This consideration weighed with the Board in the case of their restoration, did it not?—Certainly; we know that the Government wished them to go.

414. *Chairman.*] In that case, not to have restored them would have been an act of great injustice?—Certainly.

415. But there have been other cases in which officers have been struck off the list for taking foreign service without such permission, have there not?—I think Captain Guise was struck off the list; but he never came back again; he was killed. He was in the Mexican service.

416. Lord *Hotham.*] How was Admiral Grenfell dealt with?—I think he was struck off the list.

John Holman Hay, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

J. H. Hay, Esq.

417. *Chairman.*] WILL you now give the Committee the particulars with which they desire to be furnished?—The first date your Lordship gave me was the 29th of September 1842.

418. Who was present at that Board?—That one I could not find. The minute is, "Acquaint him he appears to have been very properly removed from the list of lieutenants, in consequence of direct disobedience of their Lordships' orders to him to join the 'Calcutta;' his case is entirely different from that of Lieutenant Waghorn, and their Lordships do not see, from his present statement, anything to induce them to comply with his request to be reinstated."

419. Now, December 1851?—The 11th of December 1851 it was circulated, and the Minute of the Board upon it was, "Cannot comply." There were present at that Board, Sir Francis Baring, Admiral Dundas, Admiral Stewart, Captain Milne, and Mr. Cowper; five.

420. Those papers, you say have been circulated?—Yes.

421. Without going into the papers, will you state whether they were unanimous?—I do not think that I should be justified in answering that question. I have had a communication with Sir James Graham, and I mentioned to him the view that Admiral Berkeley took of the case, and also Captain Duncombe, and it would be tantamount to giving the information which they objected to. Sir James Graham, as soon as he came to office (the circulation papers were not in existence when he was formerly in office), saw the inconvenience of it, and therefore he immediately stopped it; the Board do not now give their opinion in writing individually, but read the papers, and at the meeting of the Board, the matter is considered. Sir James Graham objected to individual opinions, looking only to the decisions made at the Board. Then, on the 22d of December 1851, the Board's decision was, "My Lords are sorry they see no reason to alter their decision." The Lords who were present were Sir Francis Baring, Admiral Dundas, Admiral Stewart, Captain Milne, and Mr. Cowper, five.

422. Can you state whether the papers were circulated then?—No, they were not.

423. Now go to the next case, the 21st of January 1852?—They were circulated and brought before the Board on the 19th of January, though the communication

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munication made to Lieutenant Engledue was not till two days afterwards, and there were present Sir Francis Baring, Admiral Berkeley, Admiral Stewart, and Captain Milne, four, and the minute was, "Refer to former answer." The next case is the 11th of June 1852; that was not circulated. There was a minute made on the 14th, and executed on the 16th. On the 14th of June the Duke of Northumberland, Admiral Hyde Parker, Sir Thomas Herbert, Admiral Hornby, Captain Duncombe, and Captain Milne were present; a full Board; I presume it was mentioned at that Board.

424. At that full Board, the minute was to acquaint him that they must abide by their former decisions?—Yes; I presume the pleasure of the Board was taken before the minute was made, as is usual in all cases almost, though it was not actually made a Board minute, nor entered in the Board Minute-book.

425. Ought not it to have been a Board minute?—If properly brought before the Board, certainly it ought to have been a Board minute; but sometimes it does happen, that after a case has been well considered, the Lords take the pleasure of their colleagues, particularly with cases so frequently before decided upon, like those that have been so frequently before them.

426. But was the first time it had come before that Board of Admiralty, the 16th of June 1852?—Yes.

427. In June 1852, was the first time that Lieutenant Engledue's case came before that Board of Admiralty?—Yes; before the Duke of Northumberland's Board.

428. Yet you say that in that case, you are not sure whether it was formally brought before the Board, because there is no Board minute?—Yes; but on the 14th of June, when a minute was made to abide by the former decision, there was a Board present on that day, the Duke of Northumberland, Admiral Hyde Parker, Sir Thomas Herbert, and Admiral Hornby; and I conclude that it was mentioned at the Board.

429. There is no entry or allusion to it in the Board Minute-book?—No, there is not.

430. If it had been brought before the Board, would there not have been a Board entry?—I should think so; the thing may occasionally escape in the hurry of business.

431. Otherwise it is a mere act of the Secretary sending that letter?—The minute was not made by the Secretary on that day, but made by one of the Lords, Sir Phipps Hornby.

432. Therefore, at any rate, he had so far considered it as to make that minute?—Most assuredly, because he had all the former papers before him at the time.

433. Then the next case was later in June, was it not?—Yes, the 24th of June.

434. Had there been any circulation papers then?—No.

435. Was that at a full Board?—That was also a minute of Sir Phipps Hornby's, signed by himself.

436. And you signed the letter in consequence of that?—Yes, I signed it; I only sign letters occasionally, when the secretaries are away.

437. You signed it?—Yes.

438. The letter is drawn up by some one in accordance with the Board minute?—Yes.

439. Sir Phipps Hornby made the minute?—Yes, under whom the officers' appointments and restorations were; he made the minute.

440. He was the officer who would officially consider the appointment or restoration of a man?—Yes.

441. And he on two occasions made his minutes, disapproving of the restoration?—Yes.

442. Lord *Hotham.*] Without its coming before the Board?—That does not appear; I conclude that he did bring it before the Board; I have no doubt he did.

443. There is no formal notice of it?—No.

444. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] There was a full Board on those days?—Yes.

445. *Chairman.*] The next case is December 1852?—Yes; that was a Board minute, and there were present the Duke of Northumberland, Admiral Parker, Admiral

Admiral Hornby, Sir Thomas Herbert, Captain Duncombe, and Captain Milne, a full Board. *J. H. Hay, Esq.*

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446. In that case had the papers been circulated —Yes.

447. And that decision was come to?—Yes; the minute was, "To be restored to his original place on the list."

Martis, 5° die Julii, 1853.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord Seymour.	Lord Hotham.
Mr. Beckett.	Sir Benjamin Hall.
Sir Henry F. Davie.	

LORD SEYMOUR, IN THE CHAIR.

Captain the Honourable *Arthur Duncombe*, R.N., called in; and further Examined.

448. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any statement which you wish to make to the Committee with reference to your evidence on Friday last?—I wish to explain, that on Friday I expressed my great doubt and uncertainty as to whether I was present at the Board of Admiralty in June, when it was supposed the subject referred to came under consideration. That doubt arose from a want of recollection of anything having passed, whatever, as to this matter. It was not likely, at that time of the year, that I should not be present, but I have no recollection of this case ever being mentioned at the Board at that time. I therefore wish to say now, that in that statement I am borne out entirely by the evidence of Mr. Hay and Mr. Jesse, who are connected with the Admiralty. It appears when these letters were written, in reply to Lieutenant Engledue, in June, that the question was never mooted at the Board at all; that it was solely upon the minute of Sir Phipps Hornby, in whose department it was; and it appears that the papers connected with this case were only circulated amongst the late Board once, and that that once was in December; thereby showing that Admiral Parker was completely mistaken in his Answers 376 and 377, particularly, in which he stated that the decision had been come to a considerable time before December. He was not certain of the exact time of the papers being in circulation, but he could say, "I am positive the circulation papers were issued long before the decision was brought before the Board respecting his restoration; that I am quite certain of." I merely wish to call the attention of the Committee to that answer, it being completely at variance, unintentionally of course, with the evidence of Mr. Hay and Mr. Jesse upon that subject, both of whom have stated that the papers were circulated once, and once only, before the late Board; and that this was in the month of December, just before the decision. Capt. the Hon. *A. Duncombe*, R.N.

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449. You stated that it was not brought before the Board, and that it was signed by Sir Phipps Hornby, without being brought before the Board?—Yes.

450. What Mr. Hay stated was this; that there was no proof of its having been brought before the Board. At Question 442, when the Honourable Member for the East Riding asked him whether Sir Phipps Hornby made his minute, disapproving of the restoration, without its coming before the Board, the answer of Mr. Hay is, "That does not appear; I conclude that he did bring it before the Board; I have no doubt he did"?—I am aware of that answer, but Mr. Hay can have no knowledge whatever upon that fact. I am now here to say that he did not even mention it to the Board; therefore the first knowledge they had of this matter, as a Board, was in December; and Sir Phipps Hornby being superintending Lord, took upon himself, as they always do, if they so think fit, to minute the application, and upon that, these answers in June were sent; but Mr. Hay is wrong (for he cannot possibly know; he is never in the Board-room,)

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room,) in saying, "I have no doubt he did bring it before the Board." On the contrary, Mr. Jesse conceives he did not bring it before the Board; Mr. Jesse being far more likely to know, being in constant communication with the superintending Lord, and to whom he would bring the papers.

451. Are the Committee to understand that it is the regular course at the Admiralty for one Lord of the Admiralty, on his own responsibility and without bringing the question before the Board, to decide against the restoration of an officer who asks for restoration?—It is quite at the discretion of the superintending Lord in that matter, as in all others. He would, if he thought fit, decide the matter, and it would go forward as a Board transaction, and a public letter would be written and signed by the Secretary; but it would be entirely at the discretion of the superintending Lord whether he mentioned it to the Board either before or after he had decided the case. There are many cases which are considered of sufficient importance by the superintending Lord, although he has decided them, to mention to the Board; but in the cases that he decides, it goes forward without even mentioning it to the Board, as in this particular case.

452. In this case, Sir Phipps Hornby thought it so clear a case that Lieutenant Engledue should not be restored, that he twice in June, upon his own responsibility, made a minute refusing the restoration?—So it appears by the papers which Mr. Hay had here on Friday.

453. You have referred to a later circulation of the papers; those papers were sent, were they not, to Sir Phipps Hornby, as to the other Lords, at the time of their circulation?—Yes, they were.

454. Was he present at the Board when a minute was agreed to, or a decision come to, allowing Lieutenant Engledue to memorialise for his restoration?—Yes; so it will appear by Question 445, which was answered by Mr. Hay. Sir Phipps Hornby's name appears as being present.

455. Can you state the date when that Board met, which recommended Lieutenant Engledue to memorialise for his restoration?—No; of that, I think, the exact date does not appear. The Committee could, perhaps, get at it, because the date of that Board would be the date upon which the papers would be mentioned at the Board as having been circulated and decided upon by the different Lords during the preceding three weeks.

456. The letter stating to Lieutenant Engledue that he is at liberty to memorialise her Majesty in Council, is dated the 22d of December; the Committee wish to ascertain whether any proceeding had taken place, which made that Board of Admiralty feel it incumbent upon them, when they were, in fact, at the time out of office, to send forward that letter?—I am afraid, from what took place at the last meeting of the Committee, that there is a misapprehension upon that point. Lieutenant Engledue's last memorial is on the 30th of November, and in all probability, a day or two afterwards it would be mentioned at the Board that a memorial had been received; and some one member (I think it was Sir Thomas Herbert) said, upon the case being mentioned, "Well, let us put the whole of the papers into circulation, and each Lord thereby give his opinion upon it." So that, a few days after the 30th November, those papers would be put into circulation; and as each Lord, in his own room, had them, he would write his opinion upon them. I think Sir Thomas Herbert said that his own opinion was given on the 16th of December. If I recollect rightly, mine was a few days before that, perhaps one or two; and the other Lords' about that time. After the papers had been in circulation amongst the various Lords, they would then go to the First Lord, who would, at his leisure, give his attention to them, and decide, so far as his opinion went; and it might be a few days still further before it actually came before the Board; and the way that it would come would be this, by the Board-room clerk saying, "These papers have been in circulation; they are completed; and such and such are the opinions of the Lords." But the identical day, the 22d of December, would not be the day that the decision of the different Lords would be come to. It would merely take practical effect from that day, though the opinion of the Lords had been taken several days previously, and at different times.

457. According to these papers, it would appear that the Government who are responsible for the restoration of Lieutenant Engledue was the present Board of Admiralty, because the letter replacing him is signed by the present Secretary of the Admiralty, and is dated on the 7th of January 1853?—That is very true; because

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because several days must elapse before the routine of the mode of restoration can take effect; I am sure the Committee will see that the present Government are not responsible for having the other day given to Lord Eglintoun (the late Lord Lieutenant of Ireland), the riband; the thing was decided before the late Government went out of office, though only carried into effect the other day. In the same way the decision of the late Board upon this question had, I believe, by every one of them, been come to before the adverse vote of the House of Commons; for Sir Thomas Herbert said that he gave his opinion on the 16th, and mine was a few days before that; and a certain number of days elapsed before the routine of the business could be carried forward. In point of fact, it was decided previously to the late Board, either being out of office or even resigning office.

458. Sir *B. Hall.*] Can you inform the Committee, after the memorial had been rejected on the 16th of June, in the letter signed by Mr. Stafford, and again on the 24th of June, signed by Mr. Hay, what were the immediate causes which led to a re-consideration of this last memorial of Lieutenant Engledue in a different way. In the first instance, it appears that it was not brought before the Board; that the affair was settled by Sir Phipps Hornby, away from the Board; and in the third instance, the case was brought before the Board. What led to that?—I do not know of my own knowledge. I conceive in this way: that the first memorial had been so received, and in the meantime, judging from the evidence, Sir H. Thomas Herbert had been spoken to by Sir Watkin Pell and Sir Thomas Hastings, and upon the question being named at the Board, he moved that the whole of the papers connected with this case should be put into circulation. I have no knowledge upon that subject.

459. You do not further recollect why this memorial was brought under the consideration of the Board?—No; nothing further than recollecting that Sir Thomas Herbert was the individual who moved that the papers should be circulated.

Captain *Alexander Milne*, R. N., called in; and Examined.

460. *Chairman.*] YOU have been at the Board of Admiralty since what year?—Since December 1847.

Capt. *A. Milne*, R. N.

461. In the course of that time, has the case of Lieutenant Engledue been brought under your notice as one of the Lords of the Admiralty?—I think the first memorial I saw was on the 11th of December 1851; and the memorial was at that time refused.

462. Were the papers circulated at that time?—They were.

463. You then having an opportunity of deliberately considering the case?—When I referred to the circulation papers, I found that I had not given a written opinion; but I was present at the Board when the memorial was discussed. I had previously read all the papers, though I had given no written opinion.

464. Then you saw the papers connected with the memorial of Lieutenant Engledue, which are spoken of as having been circulated at that time?—Yes, I did.

465. And at that time you concurred, did you not, in the reply given by Captain Hamilton?—Yes, I did; I have always held one opinion.

466. Would you mention the next time when it came under your notice?—He wrote again about the 18th December, and that was not circulated; but it was brought before the Board at the time, and I was also present, when he (Mr. Engledue) was referred to the former answer, and that their Lordships saw no reason to alter their former decision. Then there was a memorial subsequently to that, I believe about January 1852; and I think on that occasion he was again referred to the former decision.

467. By Mr. Parker, the then Secretary of the Admiralty?—Yes.

468. Were you present at that time?—I think I was.

469. Then, again, there was a written letter from him early in June 1852?—Yes.

470. Was it brought to your notice?—No. I did not see it; I heard of it.

471. Neither on the 16th nor the 21st?—No. I heard of the one of the 16th, but I did not hear of the one of the 21st of June.

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472. Then the case was afterwards brought to your notice?—It was brought to my notice by the subsequent memorial, that was circulated about the 14th of December 1852.

473. On that occasion the Committee are informed that there was a difference of opinion at the Admiralty respecting it?—I should have, perhaps, declined to state individual opinions, unless the Committee had pressed me; but I see that evidence has been given that both Admiral Parker and myself differed from other members of the Board, and that is correct.

474. Did you consider at that time any other cases which bore upon this case; any other precedents, either favourable or unfavourable, to the request of Lieutenant Engledue?—There were some statements made that other officers had been originally scratched off the list, and restored, and that therefore there was no reason why Lieutenant Engledue should not be. I think that was stated by some individual member at the Board table.

475. There have been many cases in which officers have been struck off the list, have there not?—Yes; who have refused to serve, more especially in the medical profession. They go into private practice, and remain on the half-pay list, and when called upon to serve, they have declined, and made many excuses; they have been given leave for six months and then called upon again, and if they have again asked for further leave, they have been struck off the list.

476. Because they have got into some private practice, and refused to serve?—Yes; they think it better to remain on shore in permanent practice.

477. When that has been so, have they ever been restored?—I am not aware of a case.

478. That case seems somewhat analogous to the case of Lieutenant Engledue: he entered into private business?—Quite so; he refused to serve. He was an officer highly looked up to, as a man of talent, ability, and energy; and when called upon to serve he declined, and took employ in another profession.

479. But looking at the interests of the navy as an officer, do you consider it necessary to be strict in calling upon persons to serve, and when they refuse, to strike them off the list?—Most assuredly. When an officer's services are actually required by the Admiralty, and he has been trained, as Lieutenant Engledue was, to gunnery duties, which was lately introduced, and that officer plumply and plainly tells you that he will not serve, I think there is no alternative but to remove the officer from the list.

480. It may be, both in the case of a lieutenant and in the case of a medical man, attended with considerable hardship, in a pecuniary sense, to be obliged to give up his private practice and return to the service?—No doubt there must be a choice between one and the other; either serve the Queen, or remain in private practice; and he must decide that himself.

481. You think that there is no other rule for the Board to follow than to strike a man off when he refuses?—I think not, unless he assigns some good reason, for instance, bad health, or any peculiar circumstance with regard to the state of his family; and then the Board would, on consideration, give him six or 12 months' leave to meet the case.

482. Where the case was of a temporary nature, you would be lenient, and give a man time to let him arrange his private affairs?—Certainly. Cases occur almost every day of an officer in bad health, or saying that he has just come home on urgent family affairs, and would like a few weeks' leave; and there is always consideration given, according to the peculiarity of the case.

483. Lord *Hotham.*] Does it often happen that surgeons who have been struck off the list apply for restoration?—I am not aware of any cases. Many of them have considered it a hardship, after being several years in the service, that they should be removed from private practice.

484. Allusion has been made to there having been a difference of opinion at the Board upon the subject of the restoration of Lieutenant Engledue; were the decisions of the Board in 1851 unanimous, or was there any difference?—I do not think there was any; I believe it was an unanimous opinion.

485. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] In Lieutenant Engledue's reply to the first order he received in August 1840, to hold himself in readiness to join a ship, he states this: "Presuming that it is their Lordships' intention to promote me to the rank of commander, and appoint me to the command of one of Her Majesty's steam-ships,

ships, for which service I have been qualifying myself, I beg leave to say that I am ready at five minutes' notice. But should it be their Lordships' intention to appoint me as a lieutenant, I regret much not being able to accept of such an appointment for some time, from the urgent nature of my private affairs." Has your attention been particularly called to that?—Yes; I read this letter in 1851.

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486. Have you ever known instances of officers in the Navy attempting to make terms of that sort?—Certainly not; I think it is dictating to the Admiralty what they are to do.

487. Do you consider that the tone of it was an aggravation of the disobedience?—I think it was disrespectful; I think as to Lieutenant Engledue, that no man stood higher in the opinion of the public and the officers of the Navy than he did; and I am quite sure from what I know of the Admiralty, that in a very short time that officer would have succeeded in obtaining his promotion.

488. Sir *B. Hall.*] You state that Lieutenant Engledue was trained to gunnery, and was an able and experienced officer in that department?—Yes.

489. When you state that he was trained to gunnery, it was on board the "Excellent," at the public expense, was it not?—Yes; he was specially appointed. A special number of officers were selected to be trained in the new system of naval gunnery that was established at the public expense.

490. Lord *Hotham.*] That led to Sir Thomas Hastings's recommending him, did it not?—Yes.

491. Sir *B. Hall.*] It was subsequent to that, that he refused to serve when called upon?—It was; there are many cases of officers who may be removed from the list either by sentence of a court martial or otherwise, whose cases might be deserving of consideration, and the Board would naturally take into consideration, after a series of years, whether the punishment had not been sufficiently great, so as to restore the party to the list; but that is a very different case from that of an officer who declined to serve when called upon to do so.

492. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Are you aware what the opinions were at the Board in December 1851; was there a difference of opinion at the Board?—If the Committee wish me to state, I believe it was the unanimous opinion that he should not be restored.

Lieutenant *John Ralph Engledue*, R.N., called in; and Examined.

493. YOU have been present in this room during the examination to-day, and on the former occasion?—Yes.

Lieutenant *J.R. Engledue*, R.N.

494. You having tendered yourself to give evidence, and having heard the opinion that officers in the Navy have given upon your letter of the 19th of August 1840, I wish to ask you whether you consider that it was a proper letter for you to write to the Admiralty?—No. If I had reflected for a moment, I should not have written that letter; I do not pretend to defend it; I should have acted as the Lords of the Admiralty have done if I had been in their position.

495. If some one else had written that letter, you would have concurred, after such a letter, that he should be struck off the list?—Most decidedly.

496. Since that is your opinion as stated to this Committee, have you since that date, in your memorials to the Admiralty, expressed regret for the injudicious and hasty letter that you wrote?—Verbally I have communicated with several of the Lords of the Admiralty, and told them that I was quite prepared to make any apology to their Lordships for that letter; Admiral Dundas particularly, and he quite concurred with me; he thought it might have been a harsh measure, removing me from the list, and he told me that he would give me his support in getting me reinstated, as he said it was a hard case that a man for a single act of indiscretion should suffer for the rest of his life; and as he said, a person who had distinguished himself, as I had done, ought to receive my promotion for distinguished services which I had performed in the Navy.

497. You refer the Committee to verbal expressions of regret. In your many letters to the Admiralty, can you refer the Committee to any written expression of regret?—None. I have had some conversation with Sir William Parker, the principal party; he was then Senior Naval Lord of the Admiralty at the time I was removed from the list, before the letter was written. I had frequent communications with Sir John Pechell, then a Lord of the Admiralty, and various

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others, pointing out how injurious it would be to me to serve immediately. Sir William Parker's reply was, "If you do not serve, I will scratch you off the list." After being removed, I had an opportunity of seeing Sir William Parker again: he was a passenger with me. I took him to China, with Sir Henry Pottinger, and I had an opportunity of conversation with him on this very subject; and I said, "Sir William, why not serve every officer in the service the same as you served me, who refused to serve; why not scratch every officer off the list who has committed himself and disgraced himself, many of whom are now retained on the list who are not admitted into private society"? I quoted the instance of one, the son of an old friend of his own, and I said, "How can you reconcile to your conscience to remove me from the list, an honourable man, and yet retain on the list another, who has disgraced himself as a man, and to the world he is considered still an honourable man?" And I remarked, "If such is the strict rule of the Admiralty, that every officer who refuses to serve should be removed from the list, I was quite willing to submit to the same; but knowing, as I do, that private influence will overcome every difficulty, the case is altered." I quoted to him the cases of several officers; for instance, Admiral Napier, as he was alluded to, and Admiral Sartorius. I said, as to those gentlemen, I had sailed with Sir Charles Napier, and he wished me to join the Portuguese fleet, when I was in the "Excellent;" I said, "No; if my country calls upon me, I will go, but I cannot take foreign service." I took a different line, when I found I could not be promoted. Sir Graham Moore, who examined and inspected the "Cornwallis," my last ship, at Plymouth (there is a minute now in the Admiralty which I have seen) stated that he never in his life saw a ship turned out in the same gunnery order before. Sir Richard Grant, who was the captain, said, "To this officer I am entirely indebted for the discipline in gunnery exercises."

498. You stated there were many officers who were not struck off, who, like you, had refused to serve; will you first give the Committee the names?—There is Sir Joseph Douglas, a master in the Navy, who was removed from the list for taking the command of a merchant-ship without leave.

499. When was that?—Some few years ago; I suppose eight or nine.

500. Was he called upon to serve?—Yes; and refused.

501. He was struck off the list?—Yes, and afterwards reinstated by Lord Auckland, I think it was.

502. How soon after?—I think after the lapse of three or four years; I am not quite certain of the number of years.

503. Will you mention any other case?—There was a Mr. Mapleton, a master.

504. What was his case?—He was called upon to serve, and declined, and was scratched off the list; he was then residing at St. Helena, and has been residing there ever since.

505. Has he been restored?—Yes; I am not certain whether he was made port-master.

506. When was he reinstated?—I do not know; I have not the date.

507. Nor under what Board of Admiralty?—No; I know that he had never served a day as a master in the Navy.

508. Do you know of any other?—Lieutenant Sarsfield; he took the command of a merchant ship, and was removed from the list for quitting the country without leave; he again was reinstated, with the whole of his back pay repaid to him.

509. What was the date of that?—I cannot exactly say; it may be 10 or 12, or perhaps 13 years ago.

510. You believe that you are correct as to your facts?—Yes, I am quite correct; he took the command of a merchant ship without leave.

511. Was he called upon to serve?—I am not quite prepared to say.

512. Sir Joseph Douglas and Mr. Mapleton were both called upon to serve, and refused?—Yes.

513. Lieutenant Sarsfield; you are not quite sure about him?—No; I know that he was removed from the list, and his half-pay was stopped; he was reinstated, and received his arrears.

514. Do you know of any others?—I may mention the case of the present Captain Hewlett, commanding the "Edinburgh;" he had exerted himself very considerably in gunnery duties; he had been instructed, and had been serving as schoolmaster for a considerable time, which is a very annoying position; he

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was appointed to the "Calliope" in 1846; he refused to join that ship as lieutenant, and one month afterwards this gentleman was promoted to the rank of commander.

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515. In 1846 he refused to join the "Calliope" as a lieutenant?—Yes.

516. And a month after, he was promoted?—He was made a commander.

517. Lord *Hotham.*] In what part of 1846 was that?—I cannot say; I had merely the year sent me.

518. *Chairman.*] Can you mention any other case?—The case of Captain Bowyer; that arose in this way: Captain Boyer was appointed through his political friends to the command of a frigate on the coast of Africa, and when he found that she was going to Africa, he declined to take up his appointment; that officer is still retained on the list, and he lives at Southampton; he is a post-captain.

519. Lord *Hotham.*] No notice was taken of his refusal?—None whatever.

520. *Chairman.*] When was that?—It must have been five or six years ago, I should think.

521. What was his standing?—I should think that he must have been about 16 or 18 years post-captain. Since then he has been put upon the retired list.

522. When was that?—Two or three years ago.

523. Have you any other case that you can mention?—No. There is one point in justification of the position which I took up, that I wish to explain. On the paying-off of the "Cornwallis," in 1839, being recommended for promotion, the moment she was paid off, I visited the Admiralty, and waited upon Lord Minto, the then First Lord, and other Members of the Board, Sir William Parker amongst the rest, and I said, "My Lord, I am exceedingly anxious to continue in the service; I am not at all desirous of going on half-pay; I believe you have received a communication from Sir Graham Moore, recommending me strongly for promotion; can your Lordship hold out any prospect of such?" Upon which he said, "My list is so full that I regret I cannot hold out any hopes, though I admit your case is a strong one." Finding that I could not get promotion, I called upon Sir John Pechell, then one of the Members of the Board, and upon Admiral Parker, Sir Thomas Troubridge and others, and I urged them to give me an appointment. Finding that I could not get promotion, for they said they could not give me any, I said, "I can point out to your Lordships where I can make myself useful." This I did by letter, which I believe is in the records. There was no officer appointed to the flag-ship at Plymouth, to instruct the men in gunnery, in the ordinary there, upon the new sysem, and I said I was prepared to do such, if they would give me the appointment. Sir John Pechell told me that he would think the matter over, and he did so; and in the course of a day or two I received a reply, saying that their Lordships could not open up another establishment, considering the one at Portsmouth sufficient. But since that time, this establishment has been opened by Captain Hewlett, of the "Edinburgh." Failing that, I then asked them whether they would appoint me to the "Excellent," my old ship, as practical instructor of the officers in the management of the steam-engine. This was refused, as they did not wish to make that appointment. Since that time that position has been filled up, and a small steamer is placed at the disposal of the officers. Then, failing to get either promotion or an appointment as lieutenant, I told Sir William Parker and Sir John Pechell that I must now look to some other profession. I said, "I shall go into the commercial steam service, where I shall gain experience which may be of service to the Government hereafter." Nine months elapsed after the paying-off of the "Cornwallis," when Sir William Parker happened to pay a visit to Liverpool, and there he found me actively employed in building and equipping steam-boats, and he said, "You shall not remain here; you are too good a servant." I said, "I was anxious to keep in the service, and I begged and prayed you to appoint me to a ship, but you would not do it. I have now other employment, and it will be very inconvenient to me to serve for some time." "If you do not serve, you shall be scratched off the list." Such was the result. I wish to mention that the position I had taken up in the service was one not of the ordinary routine of an officer; I had gone out of the usual course. When the "Excellent" was first established, I had written several articles upon the subject of gunnery, and Sir John Pechell, who took a lively interest in all these matters, wrote to me and said: "Engledue, we are thinking of forming an establishment now at Portsmouth, and we intend to extend the appointment of

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officers. As you have given attention to gunnery matters, would you like an appointment?" I said, "Above all others." This was when I was mate, and I then could not get a ship. I at last got the appointment from the Admiralty to the "Excellent," and I believe I was the first or second officer under Sir Thomas Hastings in that ship. Why I call the attention of the Committee to this particularly, is with reference to Captain Milne's observation, that I received my education at the public expense. I would observe, that when I joined the "Excellent," there was no system; we had a system to form (this was in the year 1832); there were nothing beyond a few minutes made by Sir John Pechell, as to what he should like to have done, and he selected those officers who had given some attention to gunnery matters to carry his scheme out. I happened to be one of those, and I happened also to be the first officer that passed out of the "Excellent," and I went through a course of mathematical examination in about seven months, which very frequently occupies two years, for which I received my promotion, or the promise of it. I was then appointed to the "Forte," under Sir Watkin Pell, being the first gunnery officer on the new system. I had a very strong prejudice to contend against, both on the part of the officers and the men. They looked upon it as a nuisance. But in the course of eight or nine months, I brought the "Forte" ship's company into a perfect state of gunnery discipline, which the evidence of Sir Watkin Pell shows; so complete was she, that when we arrived at Bermuda, and Sir George Cockburn came on board to inspect us, he said, "Sir Watkin, you look like a ship that has been three years in commission." When Sir Watkin Pell said, "This is the officer that I am indebted to for it." We then went to Jamaica in 1834, and there I received my appointment, or rather my commission, direct from home, from Sir James Graham, for the highly creditable manner in which I had acquitted myself in naval gunnery. I came home, I think, in about a week or fortnight after; and I called upon Sir Thomas Hastings. He said, "Engledue, I should like to have you in the 'Excellent.' I should like you to be appointed in the room of an artillery officer, and have the duties and drills conducted by you." I said, "I should be too proud and too happy." Sir Thomas Hastings applied for me, and I was appointed as instructor of practical gunnery, and that position I held for nearly two years. I merely advert to this, because there is no officer in the service now who has trained more men and officers, or made seamen gunners of them than myself. I felt this when called upon, after having again gone out in the "Cornwallis," the second commission, to the West Indies, that I was neglected, and that my services were not considered; and hence my determination not to serve again as lieutenant. I found that officers who had been my pupils, which was the case in the "Excellent," had been promoted over my head, and I was still a lieutenant; and as every man has a little feeling of independence about him, particularly when you have a greater amount of common sense, you do not like to see people who have been your pupils put over your head.

524. Sir *B. Hall.*] When did you make up your mind not to serve?—In 1840. I had gone into other matters connected with the commercial marine, and it would have been ruin to me to have gone out of it.

525. *Chairman.*] In what year did you take service in the Peninsular and Oriental Company?—In 1840.

526. How long have you been the superintendent under the company at Southampton?—About four-and-a-half years; but I have been a superintendent of the company since 1841. I was the first officer who was appointed by them to arrange the coaling stations with respect to the communication by steam with Calcutta and China.

527. You have been for four-and-a-half years at Southampton?—Yes; but since 1841 as superintendent.

528. Were you at Southampton in 1847?—No.

529. Were you aware of the resolution come to by the Peninsular and Oriental Company, in which the company stated their desire that no influence whatever should be used politically, either one way or other, in the contests?—No, I was not awaie of it.

530. That resolution, it appears, as was stated to this Committee by Mr. Anderson, was come to in 1847?—I was abroad at the time, in Calcutta.

531. When you came back, such resolution was not brought to your notice?—Never.

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532. As an Englishman living at Southampton, you thought you had a perfect right to take part in politics?—Perfect.

533. And you did consequently take some part?—Not a very active part; the most active part that I took in politics was at the time that the Solicitor-general was made Attorney-general; he was to come down for re-election.

534. When was that?—I think in 1851. A large number of gentlemen, both Radicals and Whigs, about 50 or 60 gentlemen, met together, and we felt that a better man could be selected for the representative of Southampton; a commercial man, whose interests would be more identified with the port; and it was agreed that we should invite Captain Sheppard, the Chairman of the East India House, and a Director of the Royal Mail Company, to oppose Sir Alexander Cockburn. I happened to be the chairman on that occasion, and put myself in communication with Captain Sheppard. He declined from ill health, I believe, and the matter dropped to the ground. Mr. Anderson, when in town, saw a notice of it in one of the papers at Southampton, and mentioned the subject to me; I said, "Yes, I was the chairman, and was very desirous that this change should take place." He said, "You had better not interfere." And I said, "That is an affair entirely private, with which the Board has nothing to do; we have a right to exercise our votes, to regulate our conversations, and to use our franchises as we please, and we consider that no director has any right to interfere with an *employé* officially, either Conservatives or Whigs."

535. You say that all this arose from a certain part that you took in the election of 1851?—I believe it did.

536. Then, since 1851, there was another election in 1852?—Yes.

537. In that election, again, in the summer of 1852, did you take any active part?—None, excepting to assist Mr. Willcox in canvassing any men that were employed about us. Mr. Willcox does not frequently visit Southampton; he is a stranger to the men; and I took the opportunity of sending for them, and introducing them to Mr. Willcox; but by the act of introducing them to him, of course I could not so interfere with them, or recommend them, to support Sir Alexander Cockburn.

538. Mr. Willcox, being a member of the Company, came down there as a candidate?—Yes.

539. And you, being a servant of the Company, went with him, and saw some of the men who were under the Company?—Yes.

540. Lord *Hotham.*] Mr. Willcox canvassed very little, I think?—I think his son canvassed the most. Mr. Willcox's election was considered sure. There was a feeling in Southampton, that if they could get a commercial man in the room of Sir Alexander Cockburn, they would do so; that was the feeling.

541. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] You are now talking of the general election of 1852, are you not?—Yes.

542. *Chairman.*] It has been stated to the Committee, that early in June 1852, the Secretary of the Admiralty came to Southampton?—Yes, I think he did.

543. Had you any communication with him at that time?—He came to Southampton, and was introduced to me by Captain Austin, the captain of the packets, as the Secretary of the Admiralty, intending to visit the ships in the port, and I accompanied him round the different ships. It so happened that the day he was down, there was a small vessel belonging to the South Western Company going out on an experimental cruise, and I think Colonel Henderson invited Mr. Stafford and me to go out in this vessel; and any conversations that took place were on matters connected with shipping; and also the various improvements in machinery; nothing else occurred between Mr. Stafford and me.

544. As you were anxious to be restored to your rank in the Royal Navy, did you at that time have any conversation with the late Secretary of the Admiralty upon that subject?—None whatever; not a word was uttered.

545. When you sent a memorial on the 30th of December 1852, asking to be restored, did it not emanate from any communication received from the Secretary of the Admiralty at that time?—Not at all.

546. Nor from any of the Lords of the Admiralty?—No; it originated purely from the agitation that was going on as to arming and manning the navy; and I felt, from my experience in this matter, having so many hundred men under me, that I could be useful to the Government.

547. You thought it a good opportunity to bring your claim before the Admiralty?—Yes.

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548. Now, in wishing to be restored to your rank in the navy, did you then convey to the Admiralty your willingness to serve, if called upon?—In the way pointed out in my memorial; that is, superintending the equipment of the ships, and raising men, and training them in case of necessity.

549. But not to serve in the navy?—No; not unless it was a case of emergency; the Admiralty were perfectly aware of the position that I was in.

550. You were holding a very profitable situation under the company, were you not?—A very fair one; much better than in the navy.

551. You thought they might fairly restore you to your rank, without calling upon you to serve?—Most decidedly, except in the way which I pointed out. I had also commenced training men there for some months before that; a platform having been erected, and a gun mounted at my own expense, I commenced training those men at Southampton, when Captain Smith was there as captain superintendent, who took an interest in gunnery, and had invented a target; I concurred with him, and I thought it would be most beneficial to the service generally to train up the contract crews, particularly when it was no expense to the Government. I felt that, being superintendent of the company, I was the only person, really, that could come into contact with the men, and influence them to do that privately which the Government might fail to do officially. Men in the merchant service have rather a repugnance to drills, and so forth; but you may lead them where they are attached to their head, and I led many men, officers, and boys to drill, without expense to the Government. When Captain Smith died, the present Admiral Corry invited me to do the same, and I said, "I should be too happy, but I do think the Government should reinstate me; I then should be too happy to carry on the usual drills." I think Admiral Corry put himself in communication with some members of the Admiralty, and they said the establishment was of no use; a charge was made by the dock company of some 20*l.* a year for rent for one of the stores in which the gun was fixed, which I believe the Admiralty refused to pay, and the gun was dismounted, and sent to the Arsenal; and there was an end to the training.

552. It seems from your answer to the question, that even now you are somewhat in this anomalous position, that you request to be restored, without being ready to serve in the navy?—I have pointed out one position in which I considered that I might be useful.

553. You do not feel ready to serve as an officer of the navy now?—That depends entirely upon the emergency of the case.

554. Suppose you were called upon to join a ship now as I understand; your position is such that you would not feel justified in giving up your position?—That would depend upon the position of affairs generally, and upon the emergency of the case.

555. Then if you were called upon in the ordinary way, as a lieutenant, to serve, it would necessarily lead to your being struck off the list again; would it not?—That would depend upon whether the Admiralty would exercise that hardship towards me, which many other officers have escaped. Though, perhaps, many have not been applied to, and refused officially, still it is well known that private influence will prevent men serving. At the time that I was removed from the list, a great many officers were begging and praying for employment; hundreds have done so, and could not get it. If the country had been at a loss for officers, that would have been another consideration.

556. There has been another election at Southampton since the date of your memorial; that is to say, since the 22d of December?—Yes.

557. Did you take any part in that election?—None whatever; I had no vote, and I gave none; except that I went round with Mr. Wilcox, to introduce him to parties who had votes in this last election.

558. Mr. Willcox was not a candidate then?—The general election, I am alluding to.

559. But in this last election?—I took no part at all in it; there was no contest; it was merely a nominal thing on the part of Mr. Cochrane putting himself forward. He was depending for his return upon the rejection of the Members.

560. You took no part?—None whatever.

561. If the Attorney-General had any unkindly feeling towards you, it must have originated in an entire misunderstanding in his mind?—None whatever; it

it originated with my being the chairman on the first occasion, when I invited another man to come down and oppose him.

562. You attribute it all to having been the chairman at a former election?—Most decidedly.

563. Sir *B. Hall.*] You have said something as to your vote; you have seen, perhaps, a discussion that took place in the House of Commons as to your case, and that the late Secretary of the Board stated that you acted most impartially at the general election, when Mr. Willcox, Sir Alexander Cockburn, and Mr. Baillie Cochrane stood, and that you voted for Mr. Willcox and Mr. Baillie Cochrane?—I have no vote at all; I do not live in the borough.

564. Then that statement is wholly incorrect?—Yes. It might have been meant that I influenced parties to vote for Mr. Baillie Cochrane and Mr. Willcox. I live three miles from the borough.

565. Now, it appears that, between the 15th of August 1840 and December 1852, you made several communications to the Board of Admiralty in reference to your having been struck off the list, and praying for reinstatement?—Yes.

566. Are the Committee to understand, that in any communication that you have made, either which appear upon these printed papers, or upon any others, you have expressed a willingness to serve as a lieutenant, if you were reinstated on the list of lieutenants?—No, I did not.

567. In answer to questions put to you by the noble Chairman, you stated, that, under certain circumstances, you should be disposed to serve as lieutenant on board one of Her Majesty's ships; is that the case?—Yes.

568. Are the Committee further to understand, that without any extraordinary circumstances, but even in the ordinary course of appointment, if you received a letter, say to-day or to-morrow, that your services were required, in the mere ordinary way of requirement of services, you would be disposed not to serve?—That would be a subject for consideration, because, occupying the position which I do, I look at it as a part of the Government service. We are conducting the packet service, a large portion of which used to be conducted by the Royal Navy, and I do not consider myself out of the service, but gaining experience the whole time.

569. If you received a letter from the Admiralty to-day or to-morrow, for the sake of stating a period, calling upon you to serve as a lieutenant, to go afloat in any ordinary service, would you or not accept that appointment?—That would be a subject for consideration, which I am not prepared to reply to at the instant.

570. Are the Committee to understand that you, being a lieutenant in the navy, and receiving pay as a lieutenant, would, at all events, accept the appointment of lieutenant on board one of Her Majesty's ships, if this appointment should be offered to you?—I do not say that I will not; it will be a subject for consideration. I consider, having been 17 years in the service, that I am fully entitled, in common with many hundreds, to the boon of half-pay for the navy; we contribute very largely to our expenses during the time we serve.

571. On receiving such an appointment as that, you would not consider yourself bound at once to accept it, and go afloat?—It would be the subject for consideration.

572. *Chairman.*] You stated, did you not, that there were, you thought, various other officers who were not officially called upon to serve, because, by some favour or private influence, the Admiralty had been induced not to call upon them?—Yes, I believe, many instances.

573. And you wish to be treated with the like favour?—Yes.

574. Considering that your former services entitle you to such favour?—Quite so; and considering that I was the originator, and the first person who established what I call a permanent line between India, China, and England, I have a sort of claim to that favour. On the last occasion of the meeting of this Committee, a reference was made to Lieutenant Waghorn. It is not, the Committee will see, quite a similar case. He was promoted, and made a lieutenant for his services in opening up the overland route to India; and in my application, and during some explanations which I had with parties on that subject, it was to show that I had contributed considerably towards establishing that route, and bringing to perfection that which Lieutenant Waghorn had commenced; and I thought I was fully entitled to the consideration of Government for that work.

575. Lieutenant Waghorn was never dismissed, I think?—No; he was promoted: he was a mate; but he was out of the service altogether, because at the

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time he was mate, it required very powerful influence to get an appointment as midshipman; he occupied himself commercially in establishing this route. I did similarly, and I brought this comparison to show that as I assisted in opening this communication, or rather completing it. I thought I was entitled to consideration in the same proportion as Lieutenant Waghorn.

576. Would it not have been more regular, if you had written to the Board requesting permission to take some employment under the Peninsular and Oriental Company, pointing out to them that you could equally give that attention which afterwards you say you have given to the public interests?—Because I left the country; I gave notice of my intention, and calling their attention to that subject.

577. That was afterwards; you took service without requesting any such permission, did you not?—Yes; it is a very common thing.

578. Would it not have been a more regular course, and would it not have been a more becoming course for an officer, before taking occupation under a company, to write and acquaint the Admiralty, and ask their leave to do so?—Though there was nothing in writing, there were repeated personal applications to the Lords of the Admiralty.

579. Would it not have been better if there had been something in writing?—I was told by Sir William Parker that they would most decidedly refuse it. I stated to Sir William Parker that I should only be absent a month from England.

580. If you had written to request such permission, there would have been the document now to produce?—I was told by Sir William Parker that he would not grant the permission. I had several interviews with him, and other members of the Board, upon that subject. They would not grant me permission to take employment under any company.

581. Sir *B. Hall.*] How soon after that statement of Sir William Parker and others did you take office under the company?—I think two or three days, because he was aware of the subject and the whole proceedings.

582. In 1832, you state that there was no system on board the "Excellent," and that you introduced one there?—I was part and parcel of the party who introduced the system. I say that the only thing on record were the notes from Sir John Pechell. He had given considerable attention to gunnery, and there were his notes, and he proposed so-and-so; but of course it depended upon the working whether it would do; various alterations took place. We contributed as a body our opinions, and I considered that I had a very considerable share in bringing it to its present state.

583. Who commanded the "Excellent" in 1832?—Sir Thomas Hastings; he was just appointed. Previously to that, Captain Smith had had her; he was posted, and removed from the ship.

584. In your letter of the 26th of August 1840, in answer to a letter, signed "John Barrow," of the 24th of August, you say that you beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of their Lordships' letter of the 24th instant, appointing you lieutenant of Her Majesty's ship "Calcutta," and you trust that their Lordships will take into consideration the short period since your last employment, namely, on board Her Majesty's ship "Cornwallis"; when were you paid off, or discharged from the "Cornwallis"?—I think the beginning of August 1839.

585. Their Lordships appointed you to the "Calcutta" in August 1840, did they not?—I think it was.

586. That was the appointment which you declined to accept?—Yes.

587. With regard to the election which took place in 1852, you allude to the general election of last year?—Yes, I think it was.

588. Did you take an active part in that election?—No; I attended no committee, and I had nothing to do with it.

589. Were you not in frequent communication with Mr. Baillie Cochrane, the candidate for the borough?—No; not frequent; I think he called upon me once or twice; that is all.

590. Did you not see Mr. Baillie Cochrane, in reference to the election?—No; he called upon me in common with others, and asked me for my support; and I said, "I have not a vote, but you have my good wishes."

591. Did you canvass any voters at that time?—None.

592. Then your canvassing the voters, and the interest you took in the election, were exclusively confined to the election of 1851?—To Mr. Willcox's election, and to the committee which I attended at the time. The seat became vacant in

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in 1851. That was the only time I took any active part. I canvassed for Mr. Willcox at the general election in 1852.

593. But you took no part in Mr. Baillie Cochrane's election?—None whatever, except as expressing a desire that he should be supported. In all these matters there is general conversation: "I hope so and so will get in." I said, I hoped Mr. Baillie Cochrane would get in.

594. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] In speaking to a voter, and expressing to him the wish that any particular individual should get in, you did not consider that canvassing him?—Certainly not. I would not go to any person and ask him a question of that kind. "I hope Mr. Cocharne will get in," says one; but beyond that I never canvassed any one; and I challenge any man to bring forward an instance that I have ever asked for a vote, excepting as to Mr. Willcox.

595. Lord *Hotham.*] You stated, did you not, that the meeting in favour of Captain Sheppard, over which you presided, consisted of gentlemen of different views in politics?—Of all kinds; there was a universal feeling to get a commercial man there.

596. If anyone shall have stated, or if anyone has entertained the belief, that in the removal of Captain Meehan from the "Bombay" to the "Euxine," you were influenced by political considerations, is there any truth in that statement or belief?—None whatever.

597. Sir *H. F. Davie.*] Mr. Baillie Cochrane was not a mercantile man, I believe?—No.

598. It was not in consequence of his being particularly fitted from business habits that you preferred him?—No, it was the desire to make a change. There is a feeling at Southampton, that Sir Alexander Cockburn was brought in through Mr. Willcox's influence; but there is not a feeling in his favour there; a decided feeling against him.

Mr. *Andrew Lamb*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *A. Lamb.*

599. *Chairman.*] YOU are employed under the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, are you not?—I am.

600. In what position?—Superintending Engineer.

601. How long have you been in the service of the company?—I have been upwards of 22 years, I think.

602. And, in the service of the company, have you resided for any time at Southampton?—About 12 years.

603. During the time that you have been at Southampton, have you taken any part in the politics of the place?—Sometimes I have, and sometimes I have not.

604. Were you not spoken to in 1851 by Mr. Anderson, or by some member of the company, recommending you not to take part in the politics of the town?—Not to the best of my recollection.

605. Then if it has been stated to this Committee, that about the 12th of April 1851 you were asked to come up to town with Lieutenant Engledue, when Mr. Anderson stated to you, that as the company consisted of directors of various politics, they thought it desirable that their servants should take no part, the one way or the other, in politics, you, at least, have no recollection of it?—I do not remember a single thing about it.

606. In 1852, did you take any part in politics at the election?—Not more than any other member of the community; that is to say, those who were privileged to have a vote: I voted.

607. You were not the chairman of any meeting?—Not at all.

608. Sir *B. Hall.*] For whom did you vote at the general election?—I voted at the general election for Mr. Willcox and Sir Alexander Cockburn.

609. Did you see the late Secretary of the Admiralty, when he visited Southampton?—I did.

610. Are you aware of his taking any interest about the election?—Not the slightest, to my knowledge.

611. Do you know whether Mr. Engledue took any part in the election?—I could not positively say that he took any part in the election. I know, from long experience and acquaintanceship, that he thinks in a particular way regarding politics; but beyond that I have no knowledge whatever of anything that he did in either of the elections; neither the general election nor the other.

612. Not as to canvassing or attending meetings?—No; I could not charge

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him direct with any single thing; I made it a special point not to ask any questions of Lieutenant Engledue. He and I think just as differently as the two poles, and therefore I need not say here that we do not meet on those occasions to congratulate each other.

613. Did you see any other member of the Board of Admiralty at Southampton about that period besides Mr. Stafford?—I think the only other member of the Board that I saw was Captain Duncombe.

614. He did not take any interest about the election?—Not the slightest, to my knowledge. He only came, I may say; and I think I made the remark, after he left, that I hoped that all the other members of the Government who should follow him would take the same interest he seemed to take, because upon that occasion I certainly thought that he took a great deal more trouble to make himself acquainted with many things than any other gentleman in the same position that I had met before. As to politics, there was no question raised, nor question answered.

615. Lord *Hotham.*] I suppose, although your views differ so completely from those of Lieutenant Engledue, that does not prevent your carrying on your duties harmoniously?—Not the slightest. We are the very best friends; politics never interfere with our duties.

616. Sir *B. Hall.*] Had you any conversation with the late Secretary of the Admiralty, in reference to any machinery which you had invented?—Not to my knowledge. I think the attention of the Secretary was called to a description of boilers that I patented some years ago, but it was mere passing conversation, not by me; he simply wished to make himself acquainted with them, and there the matter dropped.

617. Had you no conversation with Mr. Stafford about the removal of the packet station?—Not the least.

John Jesse, Esq., called in; and further Examined.

John Jesse, Esq.

618. *Chairman.*] SEVERAL cases have been brought to the notice of the Committee. The first was the case of Sir Joseph Douglas, who was struck off the list for entering into the merchant service?—Yes; Sir Joseph A. Douglas.

619. When was that?—The 8th of June 1835, he was appointed to the "Talavera." He applied to have his appointment cancelled, and leave granted to command a merchant ship, in the same month. The request was refused; next month he was informed, that if he did not join by the 15th of August, he would be struck off the list. On the 3d, Mr. Heath, his agent, acknowledged the receipt of the letter, and stated that Sir Joseph Douglas was obliged to proceed to India on the 28th of June, in fulfilment of an engagement he had made.

620. He was restored, was he not?—He was struck off the list; on the 27th of April 1840, he applied for restoration, and it was refused; in June 1843, he renewed his application for restoration, and in October 1843, he was restored to the list.

621. His case was a case of refusal to serve?—Yes, no doubt; he was refused leave to command a merchant vessel; he must have sailed in this ship before he received the second letter, telling him that he would be struck off the list if he did not join the "Talavera."

622. Has he served since he has been restored?—No, he is an old officer. I should mention that he was very useful in China, when the war first broke out; he armed a ship there, and gave it up to the superintendent to make any use he liked of it; and I believe his services were very valuable.

623. He was of use in China to the public service, though at that time in the merchant service?—Yes; I believe he armed a vessel at a considerable pecuniary loss.

624. Another case that has been mentioned, is that of Lieutenant Sarsfield; can you mention the circumstances of that case?—He was removed in 1827, being a lieutenant, for taking the situation of mate on board a small vessel, a post-office packet, which was thought derogatory to his rank; doing so, he was removed on that account, having previously been refused leave.

625. At that time, the post-office packets were under the post-office, were they not?—Yes.

626. Therefore he was actually in the public service?—Yes; not the Admiralty service.

627. The

627. The Admiralty struck him off the list for taking an inferior duty?—Yes, they thought it derogatory to his rank in the navy; notwithstanding that, he took the situation, and they removed him.

628. When did they reinstate him?—He was reinstated in 1831.

629. In 1831, it has been stated that they paid him his arrears; is that so?—That is not in my department; it is very doubtful; I never knew a case.

630. Do you know of any peculiar circumstances leading to his restoration?—I cannot find any memorial from him at that time; he had a very large family, and I believe was in great distress, when he accepted the appointment.

631. The next case is that of Captain Hewlett; do you know anything about that?—I have been looking for it, and I can find in 25 years no reference to his having been struck off the list.

632. Lord *Hotham*.] Who is the officer in the "Edinburgh"?—Captain Hewlett.

633. *Chairman*.] That is stated to have happened in 1846?—Yes.

634. There is another case; that of an officer of the name of Bowyer?—I can find nothing about his removal, and I have looked for 25 years.

635. He was a post-captain, it is said, who declined to take command, and no notice was taken of his refusal?—He never was struck off the list. The other day I was asked, whether two assistant-surgeons had not been struck off the list for refusing to go to the West Indies; I find that they resigned in order to save being struck off.

APPENDIX.

Her Majesty's Ship "Edinburgh," Spithead,
Sir, 6 July 1853.

Appendix.

In reference to the evidence of Lieutenant Engledue to the Committee on Dockyard Appointments, I have the honour to report that he is in error in supposing I refused an appointment to the "Calliope" in 1845. It is true that I was appointed to her, and that I wrote to the Admiralty, stating that I had only been paid off a few weeks, and that I had been 24 years in the service, and out of that, nearly 23 years employed, and on these considerations requested my appointment might be cancelled, to which their Lordships were pleased to accede.

I have, &c.
(signed) *R. S. Hewlett,*
Captain, R.N.

To the
Secretary of the Admiralty.

My Lord, Admiralty, 7 July 1853.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship, that on the 10th of August 1841, Captain W. B. Bowyer was appointed to the command of the "Madagascar," which ship subsequently proceeded to the Coast of Africa.

On the 16th of the same month I find a minute of Lord Minto, directing the appointment of Captain Bowyer to the "Madagascar" to be cancelled, "at his own request."

No papers exist in office to explain under what circumstances Captain Bowyer requested the cancelling of the appointment, the application having apparently been a private one to the First Lord.

I am, &c.
(signed) *J. H. Jesse.*

The Right Hon. Lord Seymour.

I N D E X.

[*N. B.*—In this Index the *Numerals* following *Rep.* ii. *p.* refer to the paging of the Second Report, and the *Figures* following the Names of the Witnesses refer to the Questions of the Evidence, and those following *Rep.* ii. *App.* refer to the paging of the Appendix.]

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REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

DOCKYARD APPOINTMENTS,

ON CASE OF LIEUTENANT ENGLEDUE;

TOGETHER WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE,

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX AND INDEX.

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